知る辺の道

紺野キタ

Shirube no Michi

Kitta Konno

BIRZ COMICS GIRL'S COLLECTION

知る辺の道

しるべのみち

紺野キタ

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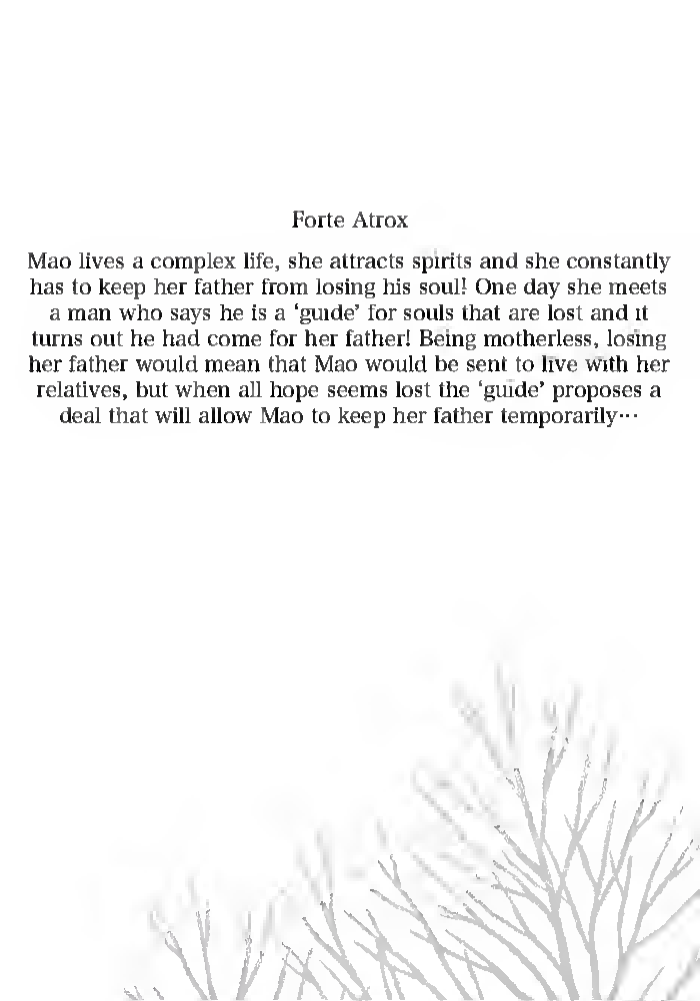
Forte Atrox

Mao lives a complex life, she attracts spirits and she constantly has to keep her father from losing his soul! One day she meets a man who says he is a 'guide' for souls that are lost and it turns out he had come for her father! Being motherless, losing her father would mean that Mao would be sent to live with her relatives, but when all hope seems lost the 'guide' proposes a deal that will allow Mao to keep her father temporarily···



Shirube No Michi

Contents

Shirube No Michi
3

Illusion Orangery
35

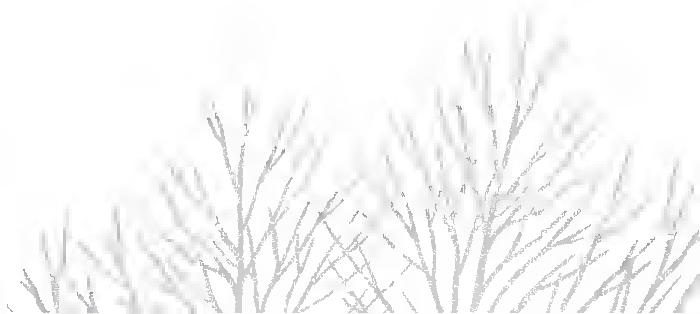
Heaven's Faerie
67

Fire of Kitsune
97

Our Enclosure
133

Angel's Bladder
149

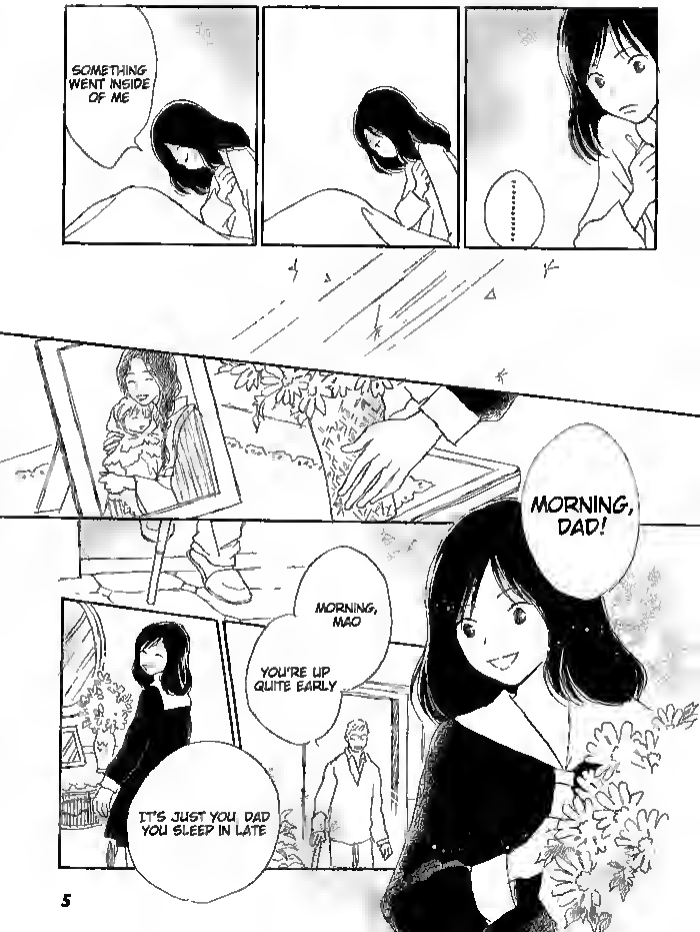
Summer School
189

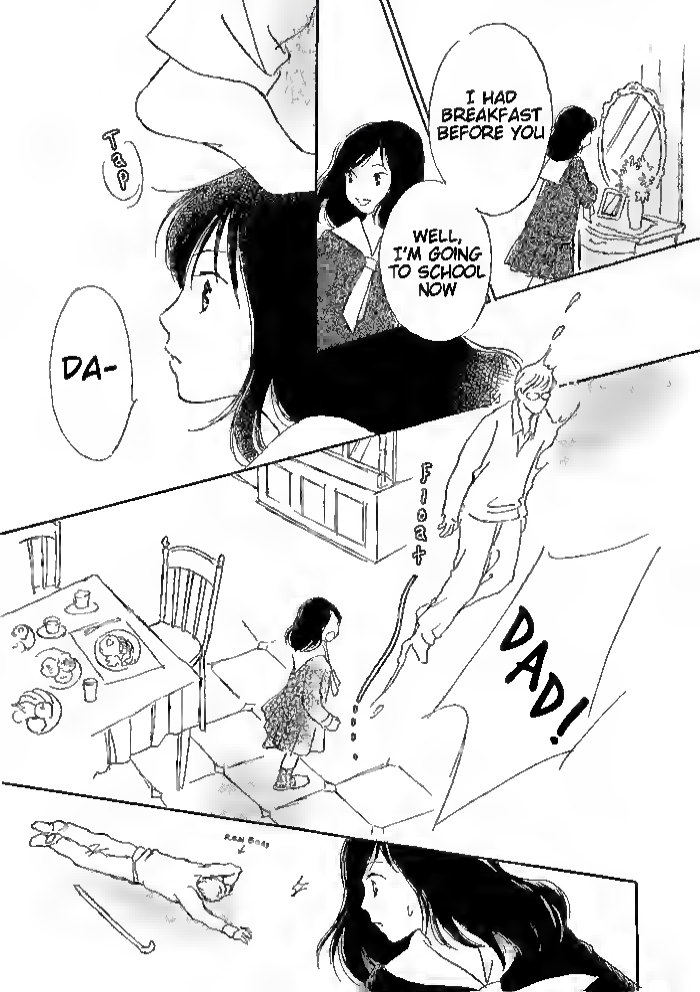


知る辺の道

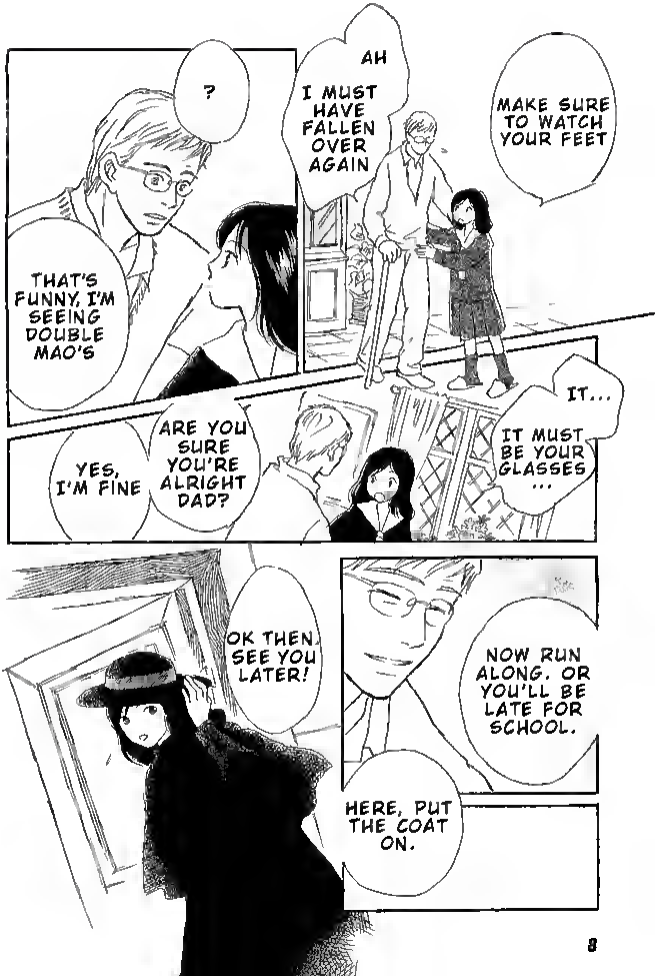
しるべのみち

SWOOSH
WHOOSH!!

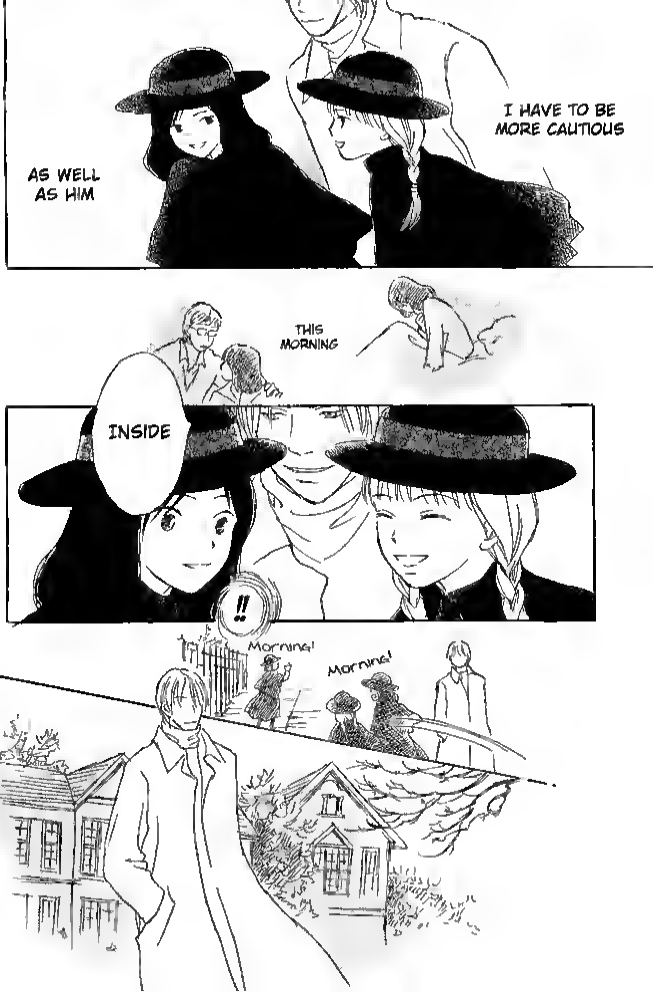

SOMETHING WENT INSIDE OF ME
.....
MORNING, DAD!
MORNING, MAO
YOU'RE UP QUITE EARLY
IT'S JUST YOU, DAD YOU SLEEP IN LATE

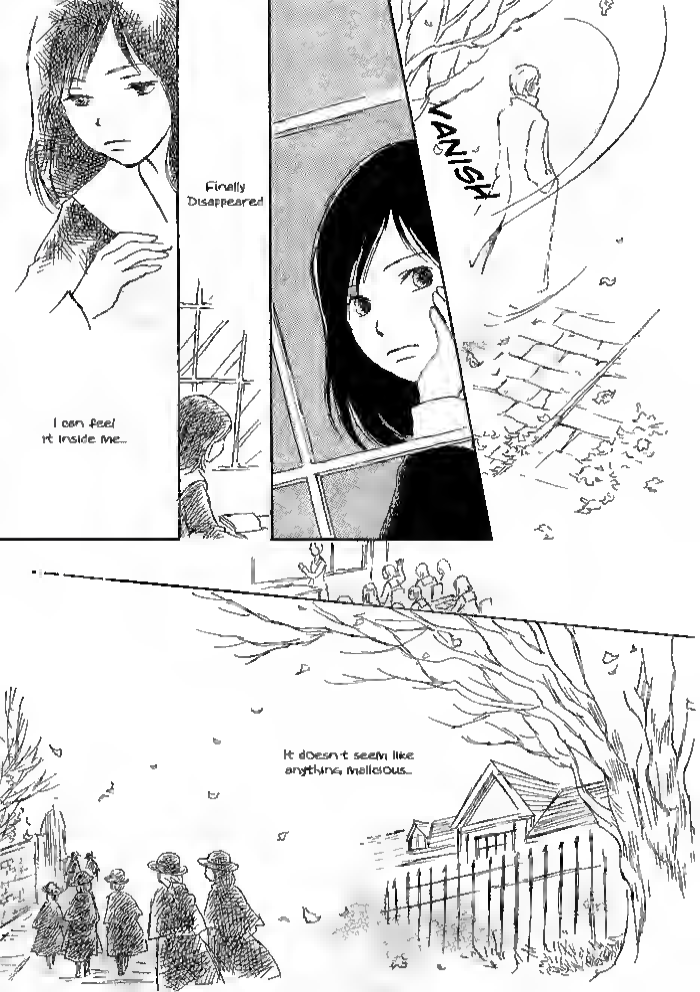

I HAD BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU
WELL, I'M GOING TO SCHOOL NOW
Tap
DA-
float
DAD!
Ran Boss

COME BACK!
NOOOO
POOMPH!
HUH?
POP
Phew


MAKE SURE TO WATCH YOUR FEET
AH I MUST HAVE FALLEN OVER AGAIN
?
THAT'S FUNNY, I'M SEEING DOUBLE MAO'S
IT...
IT MUST BE YOUR GLASSES ...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT DAD?
YES, I'M FINE
NOW RUN ALONG. OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
HERE, PUT THE COAT ON.
OK THEN. SEE YOU LATER!

MAO CHAN
CLICK
That was close
GOOD MORNING


I HAVE TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS
AS WELL AS HIM
THIS MORNING
INSIDE
!!
Morning!
Morning!

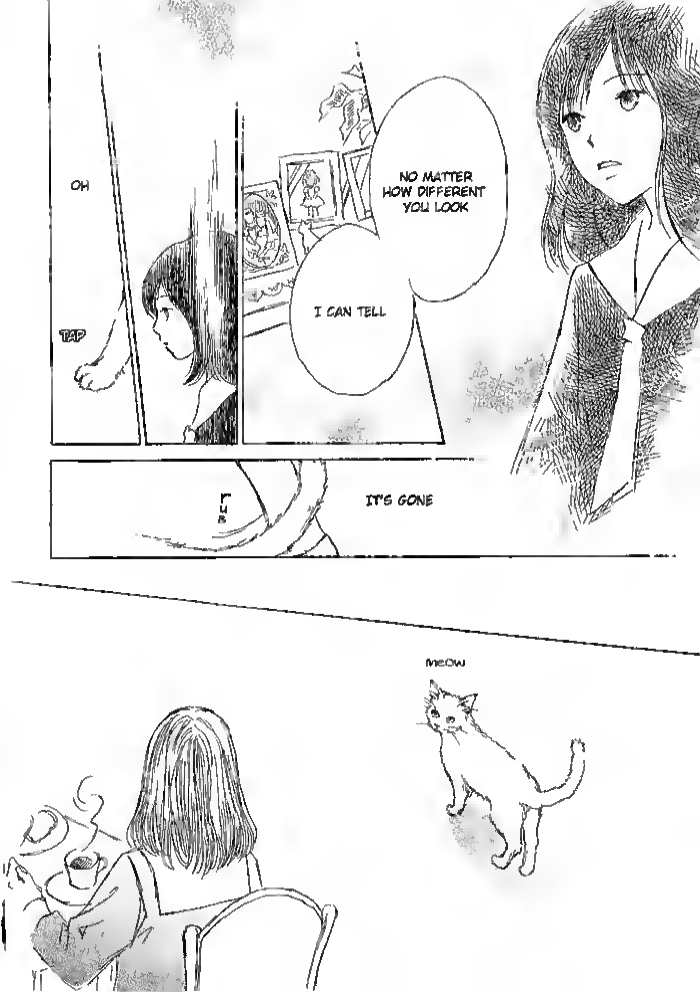

I can feel it inside me...
Finally Disappeared
VANISH
It doesn't seem like anything malicious...

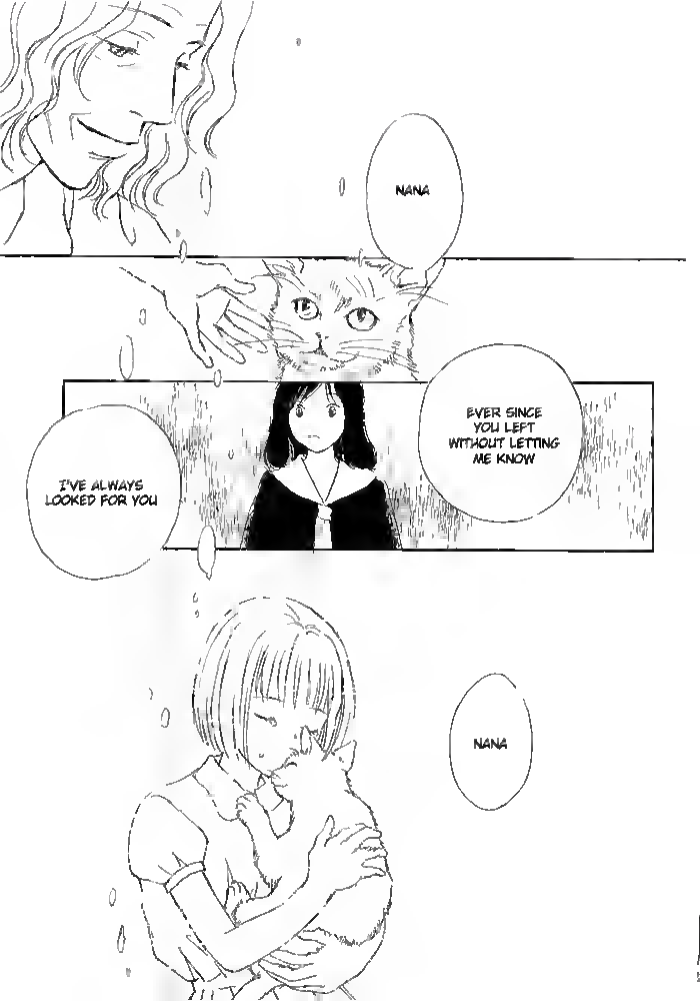
NANA!
OH
IT REALLY IS NANA
whisper whisper
NO
Who is Nana?
SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
Smile

AH
. UMM.
I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON
twinkle
I KNEW IT. .
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU AGAIN SOME DAY
?
she loses her way a lot
I'VE GOT TO HELP HER GET HOME
UH, OH YEAH! SHE WAS MY OLD NEIGHBOR!
SEE YOU TOMORROW
WELL.. OKAY, THEN

I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN, NANA!
It seems that the "customer" that dropped inside me is called nana
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GONE
Since I was little, occasionally things would just enter inside of me

pat
I HAD NO IDEA
THAT YOU BECAME A HUMAN GIRL!
WHEN I SAW YOU
I WAS SO SURPRISED!
BUT STILL
I KNEW IT WAS YOU RIGHT AWAY!


OH
TAP
NO MATTER HOW DIFFERENT YOU LOOK
I CAN TELL
IT'S GONE
MEOW


NANA
EVER SINCE YOU LEFT WITHOUT LETTING ME KNOW
I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED FOR YOU
NANA

CREAK
I'M GOING TO PERSUADE MOTHER ONCE AND FOR ALL TODAY
LIVING ALONE AT THAT AGE
IT'S UNREASONABLE

She's on the floor!
Call the ambulance hurry!
MOTHER!!
MOTHER?
WHY! SHE EVEN LEFT THE DOOR UNLOCKED.
THAT ONE
CAME TO TAKE THE LADY BACK

SWIPPLE
TURN
SHOOT
YOU LOSE
HEAR ME OUT
HALT!
.....
WHEN YOU SAW ME
YOU WERE VERY GOOD AT PRETENDING
BUT I KNEW YOU HAD NOTICED ME
QUICK
QUICK
QUICK

BACK TO ME...
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HER.
THAT GIRL
SAYS SHE WANTS TO SAY GOODBYE
GOODBYE
FOR THOSE WITHOUT THEIR OWN BODIES
THE WORLD ON THIS SIDE IS TOO BRILLIANT

YOU'RE KIND OF A SHADOW ENTITY
BEFORE THIS
HAVEN'T OTHER SPIRITS ENTERED YOU BEFORE?
- EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO HEAD HOME
NO NEED TO HURRY
YOUR DAD
I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN TO HIM

HURRYING CHANGES NOTHING
!
BANG
DAD

IT'S NOT LIKE HE ACTUALLY DIED TODAY
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT VERY WELL
IT'S BEEN A YEAR
SINCE HE HAS ACTUALLY DIED.

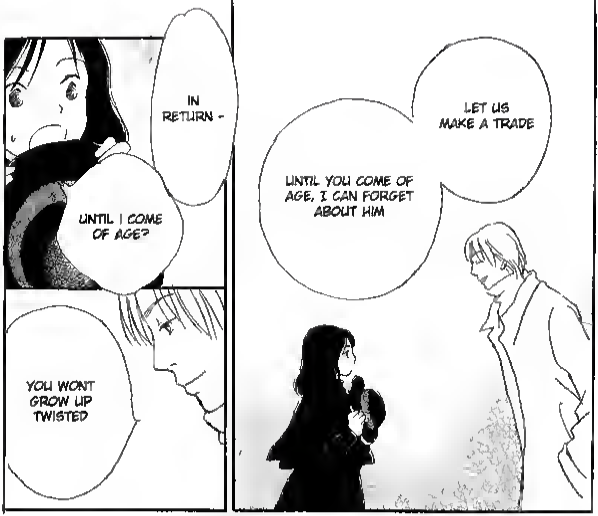
YOU'RE WRONG!
JUST THIS MORNING
HE WAS JUST FINE!
WHICH ONE HAS YOUR DAD?
THERE'S NO WRONG GUESS
ONE IS DAD
THE OTHER ONE .
HINT
SOMEONE YOUR DAD WANTS TO SEE MOST
WHO IS IT?
TAP

WOOSH
OOPS
NEVER, NEVER!
IT'S NEVER GOING TO BE THAT WAY!
MY MOM AND MY DAD, THEY'D NEVER
LEAVE ME BY MYSELF!
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!
SHINIGAMI!

I'M NOT A DEATH GOD BUT A GUIDE
THAT'S THE SAME THING! YOU'RE ROBBING MY FAMILY FROM ME!
IT'S NOT ROBBING
I AM ONLY A GUIDE
I GIVE A HAND TO THE ONES THAT HAVE LOST THEIR PATH
YOUR DAD SHOULD HAVE DIESD A YEAR AGO
AND DEPARTED TO THE PLACE HE BELONGS
BUT YOU FORCED HIM TO STAY
LIKE THIS MORNING

A FATHERLESS CHILD LEFT ALONE WOULD BE A BURDEN TO RELATIVES
BULLIED BY COUSINS AND GROWING LIP TWISTED AND DARK
CAN'T WAIT FOR IT
I. .
ONLY WANTED DAD
TO STAY ALIVE

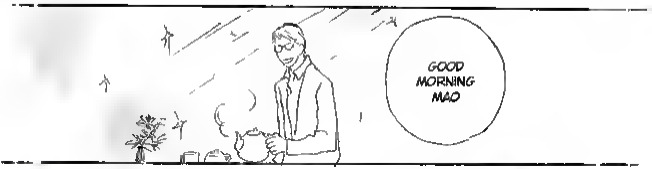
COME TO THINK OF IT...
THE LADY TODAY AND THE CAT
YOU WERE ASSISTING MY JOB .


LET US MAKE A TRADE
UNTIL YOU COME OF AGE, I CAN FORGET ABOUT HIM
IN RETURN -
UNTIL I COME OF AGE?
YOU WONT GROW UP TWISTED

NO!
HE HAS TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE ME MARRIED WITH KIDS
YOU HAVE A LOT TO ASK
AND
IN RETURN?

Grin
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
.....

THIS MORNING
CAME WITH A BIG HAUL .


GOOD MORNING MAO

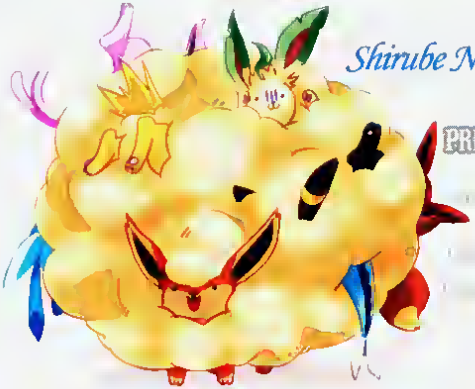
GOOD MORNING DAD
YOU WOKE UP LATE TODAY
?
DOES IT HURT?
HA HA
YOU ASK THAT EVERY MORNING
NOW EAT YOUR BREAKFAST

I'M LEAVING NOW!
HEY
YOU GOT A LOT ON YOU TODAY
HERE!
THIS WAY THIS WAY

IS THERE A LOT BECAUSE I BECAME YOUR ASSISTANT?
"MASTER"
NOT "YOU"
IT'S PROBABLY INVISIBLE TO YOU
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF SIGNS IN MANY PLACES FOR THE LOST ONES
Information
what the sign is pointing at
AS I PROMISED
YOUR DAD WILL LIVE LONG AFTER YOU MARRY
AND GIVE BIRTH TO HIS GRANDCHILDREN
IT'S NOT LIKE I BECAME YOUR APPRENTICE
TSUMUGU

IT'S ALRIGHT
YOU'RE A GREAT GUARD-APPRENTICE
WHAT A PROMISING FUTURE

❖end❖



Shirube No Michi

Konno Kita

PRESENTED BY
FORTE ANROX

FORTEANROX.ALTERVISTA.ORG

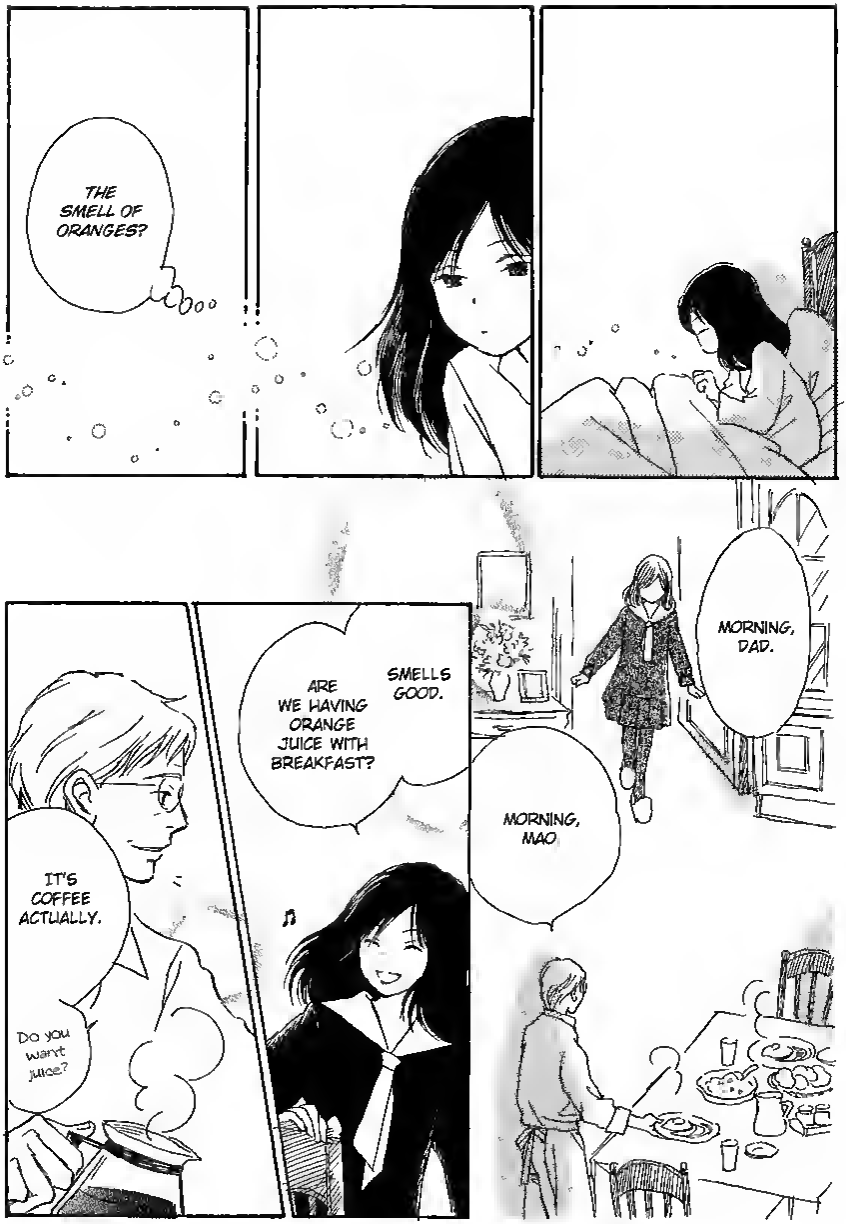
Hello there,
would you like to join Forte Three?
HTTP://FORTETHREE.AFTERGLOW.NU/

DO NOT UPLOAD ON
ANY OTHER MANGA SITE
OR REPOST UNLESS GIVEN
PERMISSION TO DO SO
NATSUKI

Illusion Orangery

オランジュリー幻想

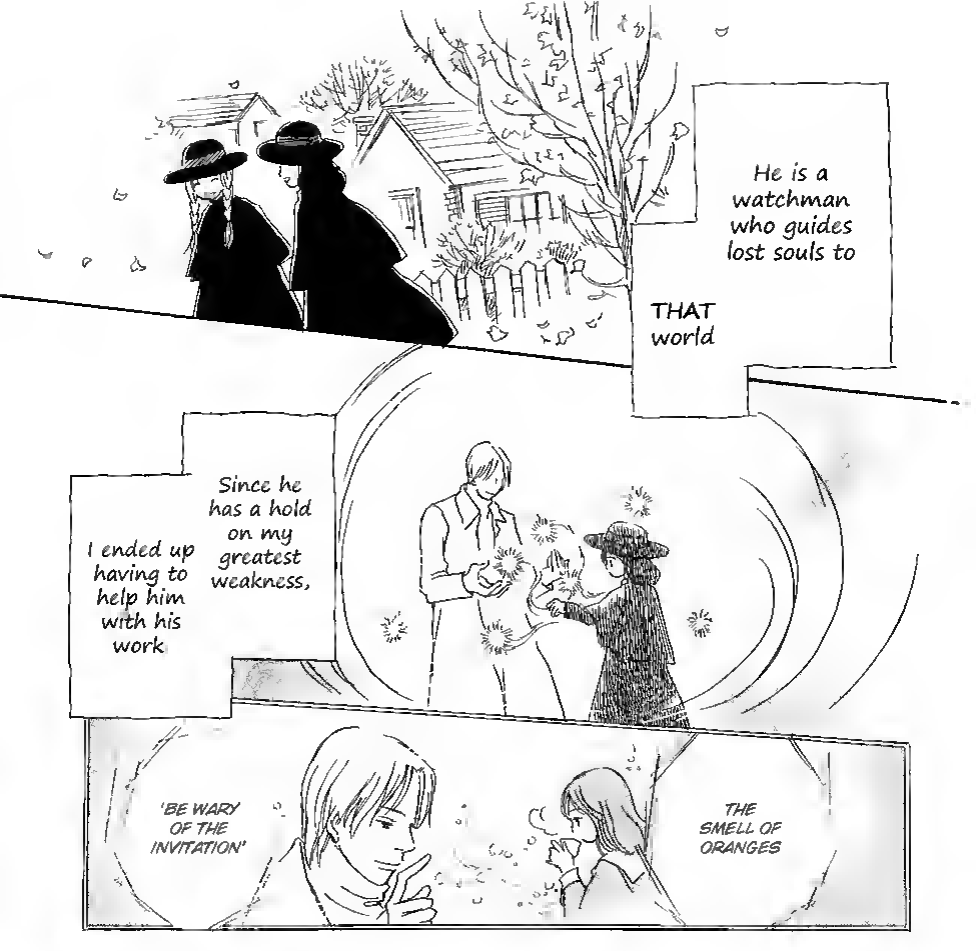
Please look for him...
He's very good at hide & seek.
He should be hiding within the greenhouse.
Look for that child.
Hey...


THE SMELL OF ORANGES?
MORNING, DAD.
MORNING, MAO
SMELLS GOOD.
ARE WE HAVING ORANGE JUICE WITH BREAKFAST?
IT'S COFFEE ACTUALLY.
Do you want juice?

DID YOU CATCH A COLD?
NAH, I'M FINE.
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY MAO?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE COFFEE SMELLS LIKE AN ORANGE?
I'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN.
MORNING.

IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!
HOW'S YOUR DAD?
..HE'S FINE.
LOOK!
THANKS TO OUR EFFORTS, THE BLUE SKY IS CLEAR OF SPIRITS!
WHAT?
REALLY. WELL, SEE YOU LATER.
THAT MEANS I GET A DAY OFF TODAY!

'BE WARY OF THE INVITATION'
NO THANKS.
I'LL TELL YOU TODAY'S FORTUNE AS A PARTING GIFT.
I'M NOT SHY!
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SHY.
THE TEACHER IS ABSENT,
SO DON'T WORK TOO HARD.
AS IF I'D DO THAT.
Mao-chan


He is a watchman who guides lost souls to
THAT world
Since he has a hold on my greatest weakness,
I ended up having to help him with his work
'BE WARY OF THE INVITATION'
THE SMELL OF ORANGES

With those kind of signs

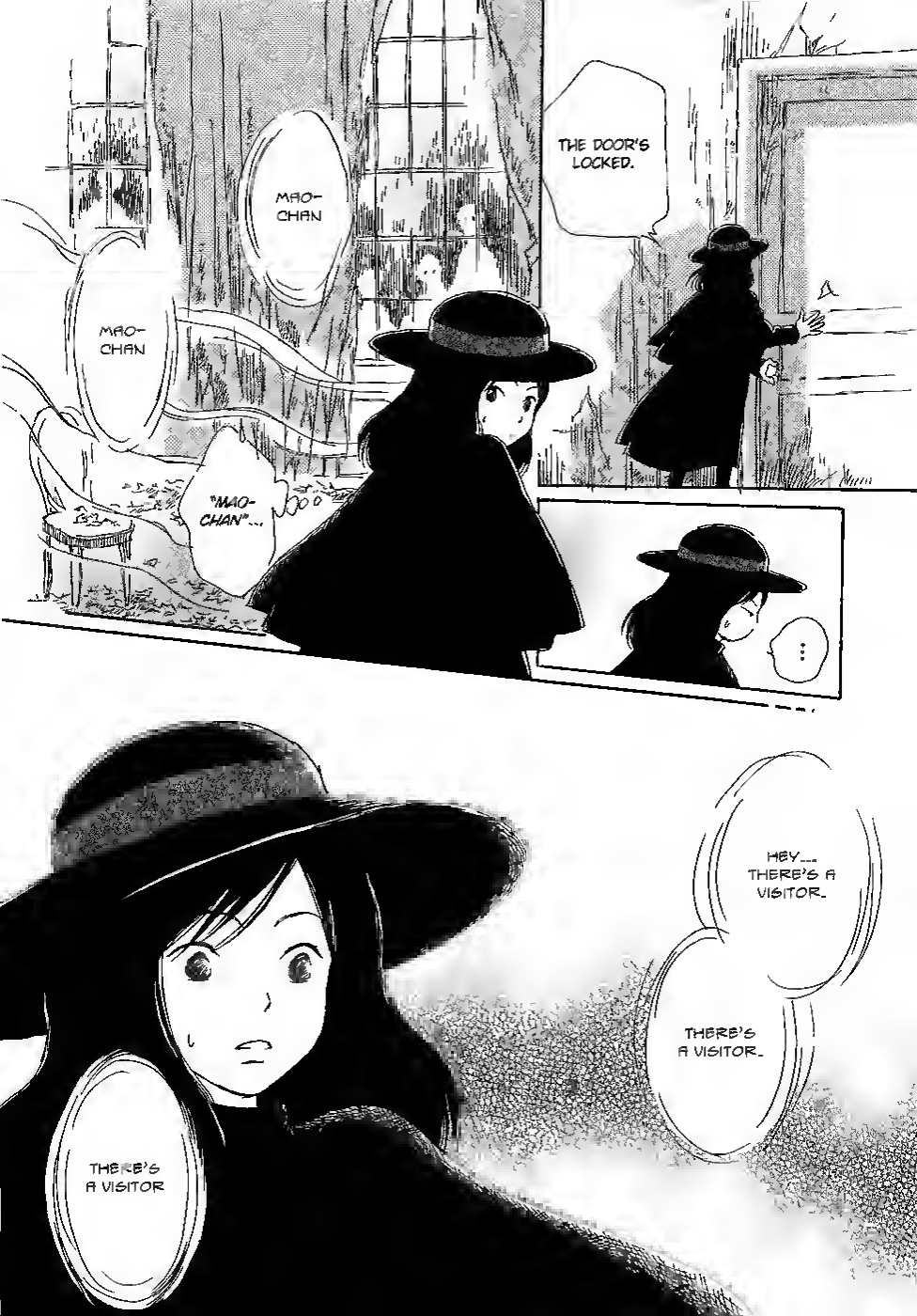
I should have been more careful .

...being invited by my friends on the way back?
By 'invitation', did he mean...
どよ
gloom
ERR...
Hey it really feels like something's going to appear!
UM.. I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS ..
LOOK! THE LOCK'S BROKEN.
HURRY UP! LET'S GO, MAO-CHAN~

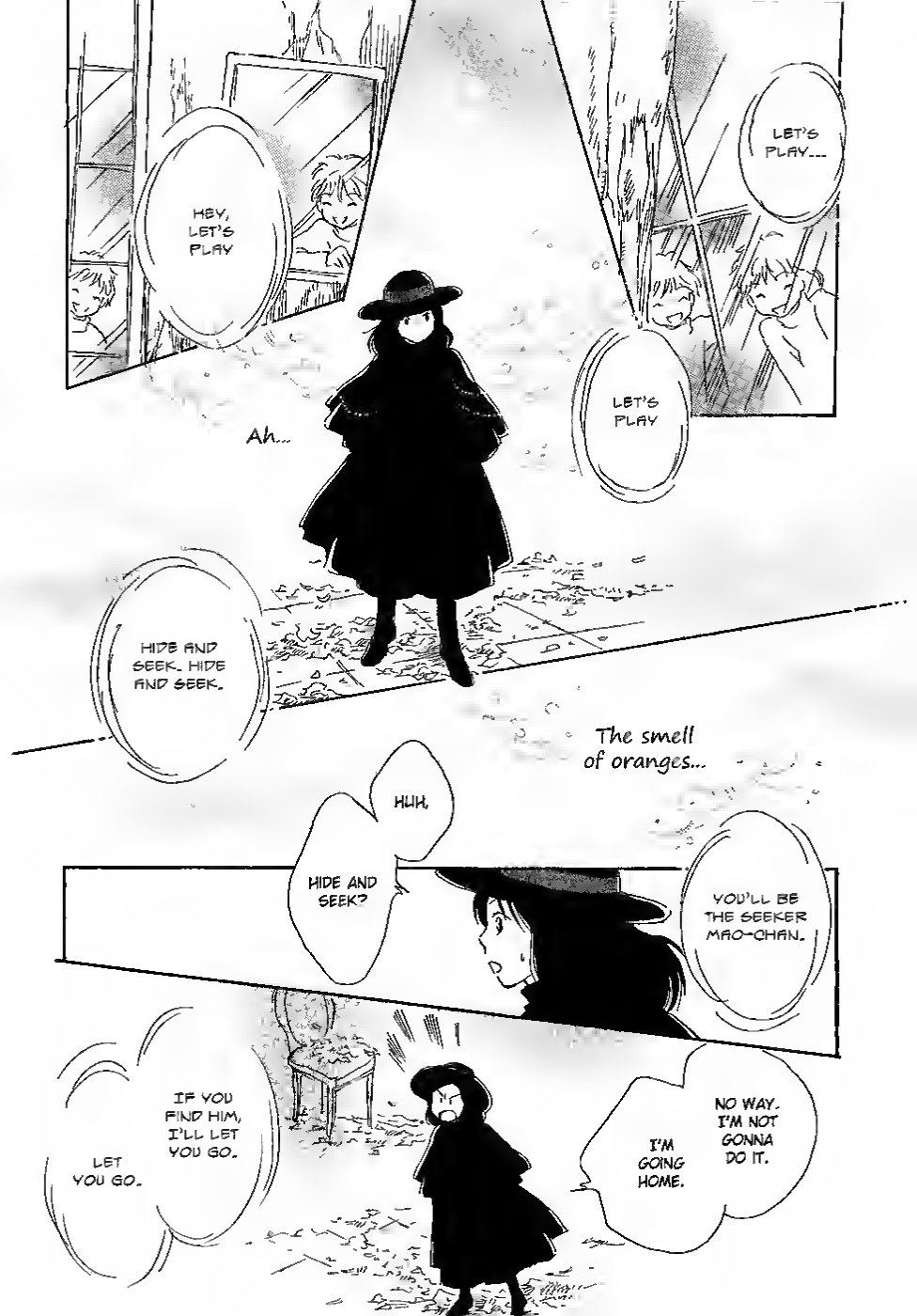
THERE'S DRIED LEAVES INSIDE TOO.
I WONDER HOW LONG THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN EMPTY...
HUH...
AS I THOUGHT, THIS ISN'T SCARY AT ALL.
I heard that the guys would come here for tests of courage
REALLY?
.....
HEY, WHY DON'T WE GO BACK?
YEAH.
IT'S GETTING DARK.
MAYBE NOBODY WOULD BE HERE WHEN THE SUN SETS.

fuuu
PLOP
OOMPH
Swish
weeeooo
!
SHHHH...

You're slow.
Mao-chan?
W-
WHAT?
Wait for me - you guys!

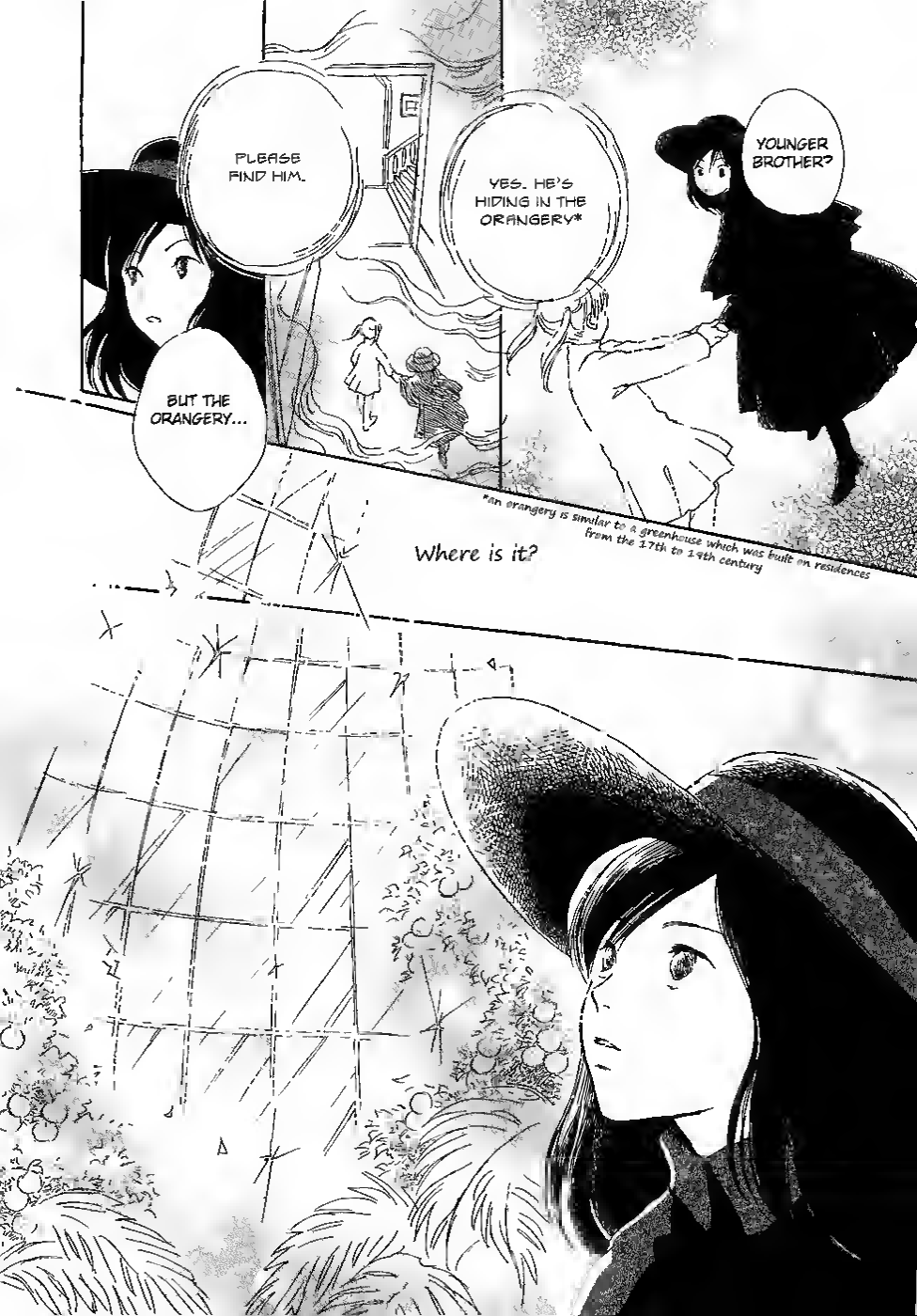

MAO-CHAN
MAO-CHAN
"MAO-CHAN"...
THE DOOR'S LOCKED.
...
THERE'S A VISITOR
THERE'S A VISITOR.
HEY... THERE'S A VISITOR.

BYE, MAO-CHAN.
"SEE YOU TOMORROW"
WELL, WE'RE GOING THIS WAY.
Whoosh
SO
WHAT'S ALL THIS FOR?


HEY, LET'S PLAY
LET'S PLAY...
LET'S PLAY
Ah...
HIDE AND SEEK. HIDE AND SEEK.
The smell of oranges...
HUH.
HIDE AND SEEK?
YOU'LL BE THE SEEKER MAO-CHAN.
NO WAY. I'M NOT GONNA DO IT.
I'M GOING HOME.
IF YOU FIND HIM, I'LL LET YOU GO.
LET YOU GO.

WELL, THAT IS UP TO YOU FIND HIM
IF YOU DON'T FIND HIM
I WON'T LET YOU GO
I WON'T LET YOU OUT OF HERE.
WHO IS THAT KID?
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE ANYWAY?
YOU'RE ALL THE SAME. I CAN'T TELL WHO'S WHO.

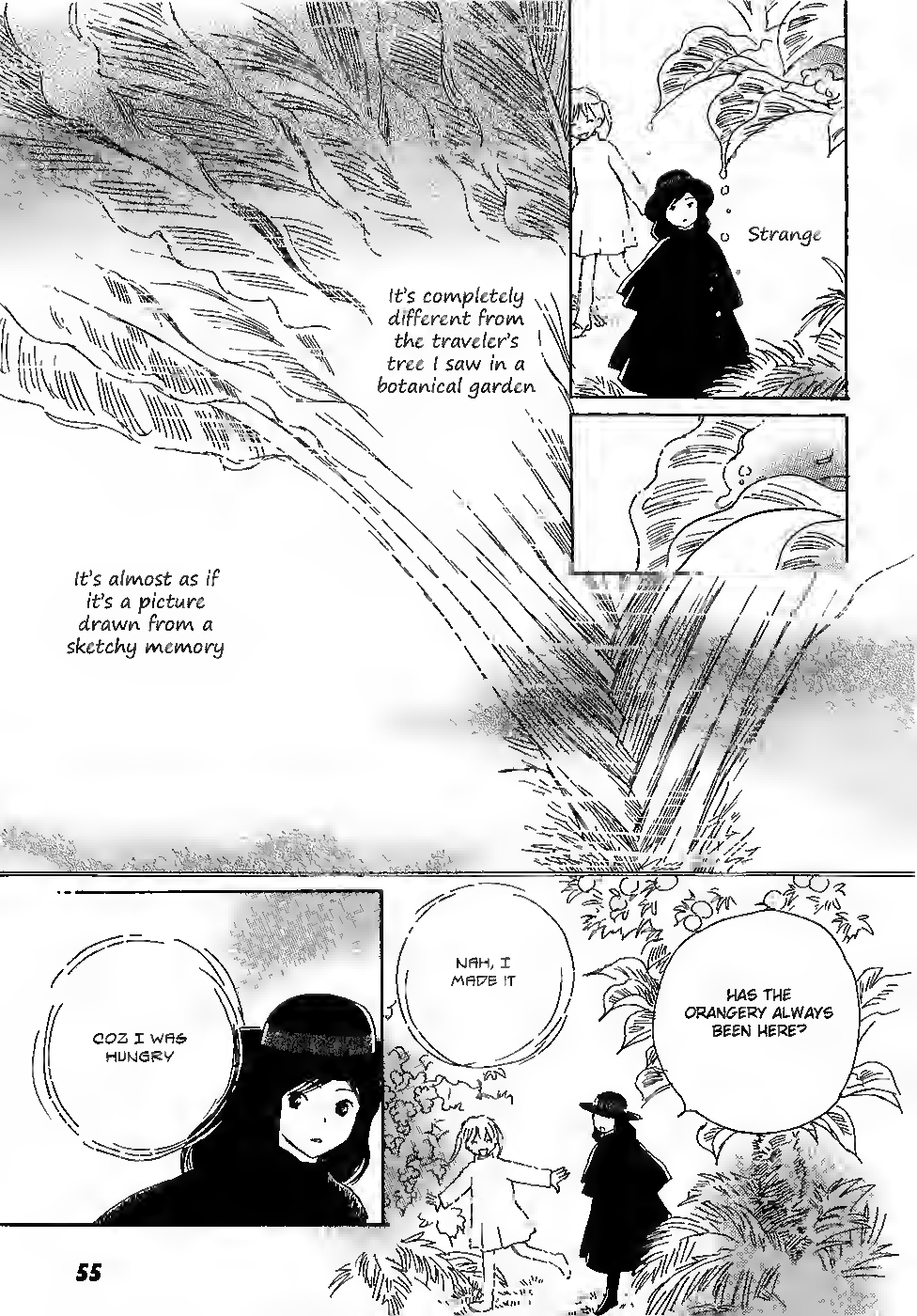
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.
BECAUSE RIGHT HERE
THERE'S ONLY ME.
A little girl
HIDE AND SEEK. ISN'T IT LONELY WITH JUST THE BOTH OF US?
THE ONE HIDING ISN'T ME.
IT'S MY YOUNGER BROTHER.


PLEASE FIND HIM.
YES. HE'S HIDING IN THE ORANGERY*
YOUNGER BROTHER?
BUT THE ORANGERY...
*an orangery is similar to a greenhouse which was built on residences from the 17th to 19th century
Where is it?

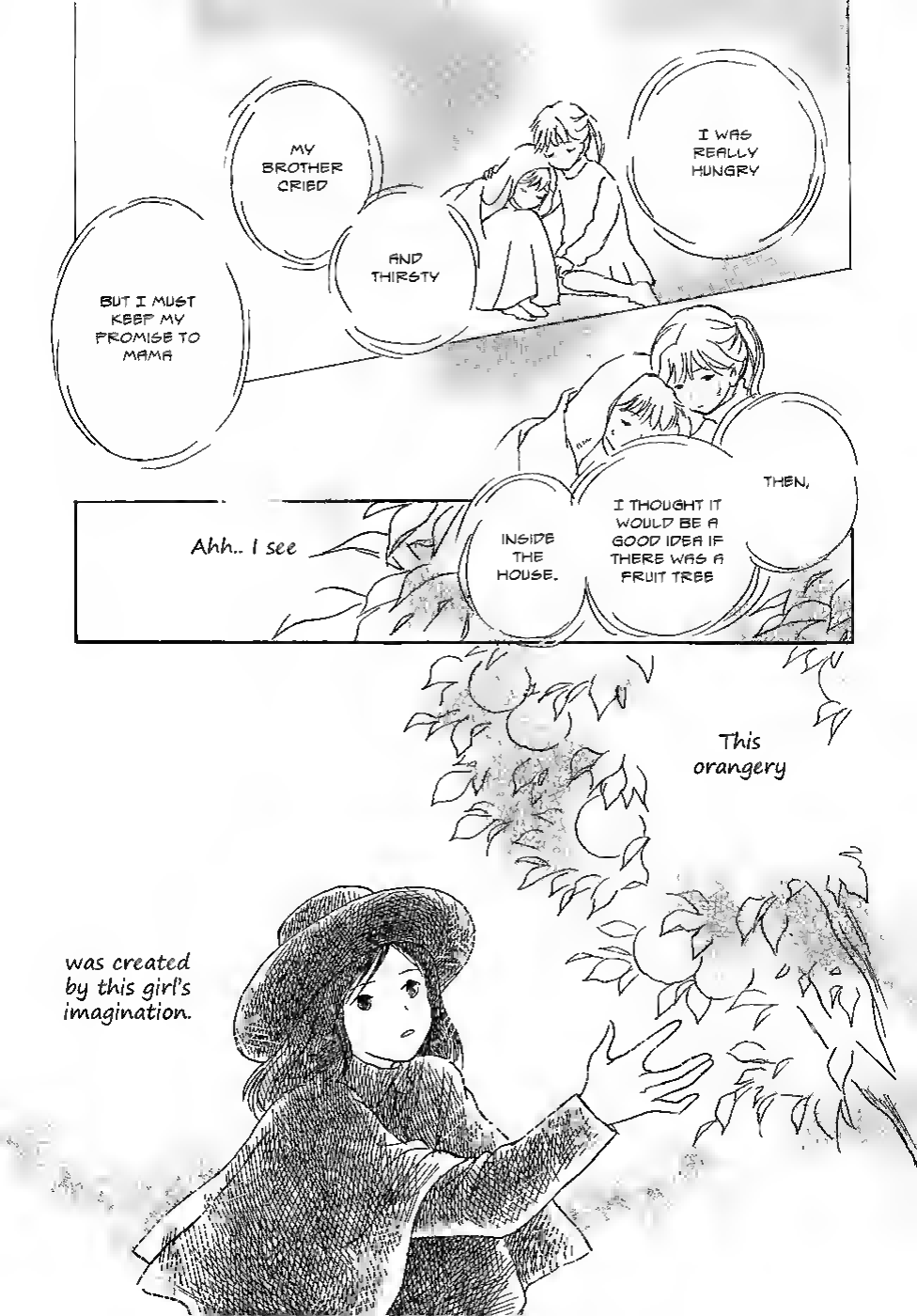
THOSE ARE APPLES.
AND THE GRAPES AND PEACHES ARE OVER HERE.
"IT'S ORANGERY"
The smell of oranges
OH, SOMETHING ...
WATCH OUT FOR THE STRAWBERRY BUSHES.

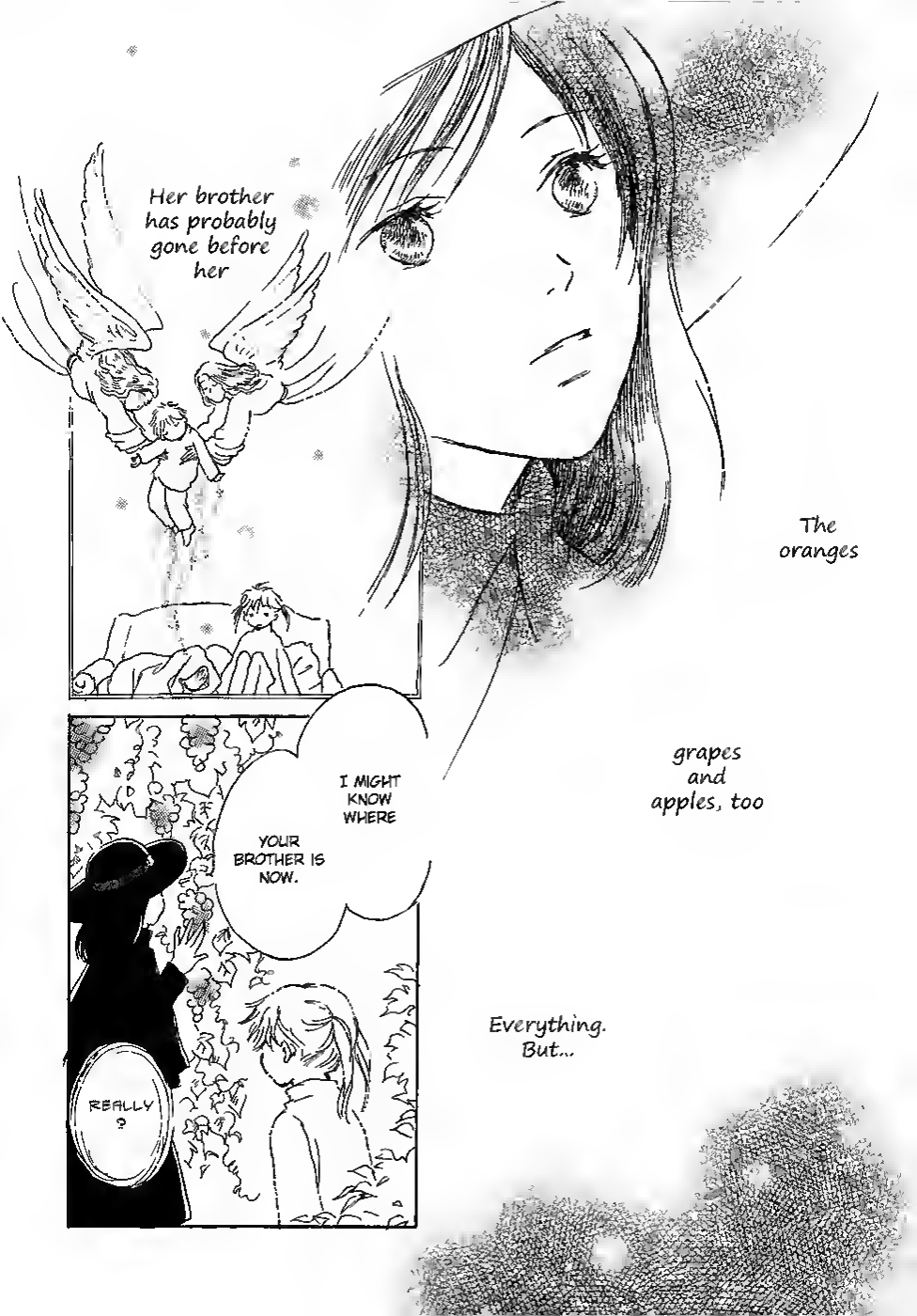
HE'S DEFINITELY HIDING SOMEWHERE HERE, BUT
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM THIS WHOLE TIME
AND I CAN NEVER FIND HIM.
HE MUST BE REALLY GOOD AT THIS.
AFTER SEEING IT FROM THE OUTSIDE, AN ORANGERY THIS BIG IS IMPOSSIBLE.
So where is this place?
It's getting more and more likely that I will not be able to return
TELE
PATHY
SHINI-GAMI!*
COME HELP MEEE
I'm only a watch-man
*DEATH GOD

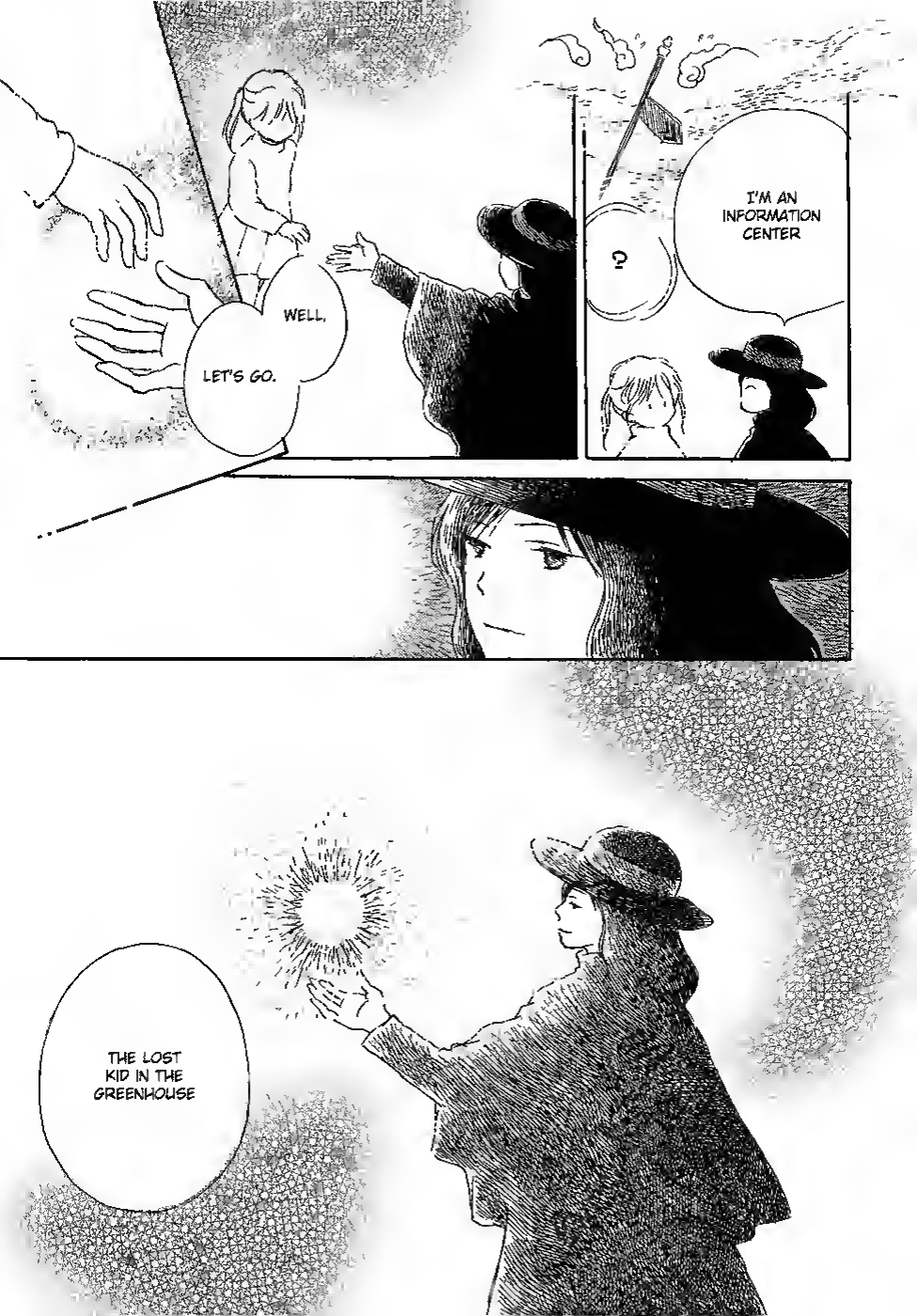
IT'S STRANGE
MY EYES CAN'T SEE VERY WELL-
IT'S BETTER IN HERE, BUT IT'S TOO BRIGHT OUTSIDE THE ORANGERY-
That's because when I of the Became ability I the Shiru- got Gami's pupil
YET
I COULD STILL SEE YOU CLEARLY
SO I THINK MY BROTHER CAN SEE YOU, TOO.
Rustle
drip drip
GAH, COLD
WATER COLLECTS ON THE LEAF.
IT'S CALLED A TRAVELER'S TREE.


Strange
It's completely different from the traveler's tree I saw in a botanical garden
It's almost as if it's a picture drawn from a sketchy memory
HAS THE ORANGERY ALWAYS BEEN HERE?
NAH, I MADE IT
COZ I WAS HUNGRY

IF THERE'S AN ORANGERY, WHENEVER I'M HUNGRY
I CAN JUST EAT MY FAVOURITE FRUITS RIGHT?
WELL,
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER OR MOTHER?
PAPA ISN'T HERE.
MAMA HAS 'GONE OUT' NOW.
MAMA SAID THAT UNTIL SHE COMES BACK, I HAVE TO BE 'A GOOD AND QUIET GIRL'.
SO I MUSTN'T SHOUT OR DISTURB ANYONE.


I WAS REALLY HUNGRY
AND THIRSTY
MY BROTHER CRIED
BUT I MUST KEEP MY PROMISE TO MAMA
THEN,
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF THERE WAS A FRUIT TREE
INSIDE THE HOUSE.
Ahh.. I see
This orangery
was created by this girl's imagination.


Her brother has probably gone before her
The oranges
grapes and apples, too
I MIGHT KNOW WHERE YOUR BROTHER IS NOW.
REALLY ?
Everything. But...


WELL,
LET'S GO.
?
I'M AN INFORMATION CENTER
THE LOST KID IN THE GREENHOUSE

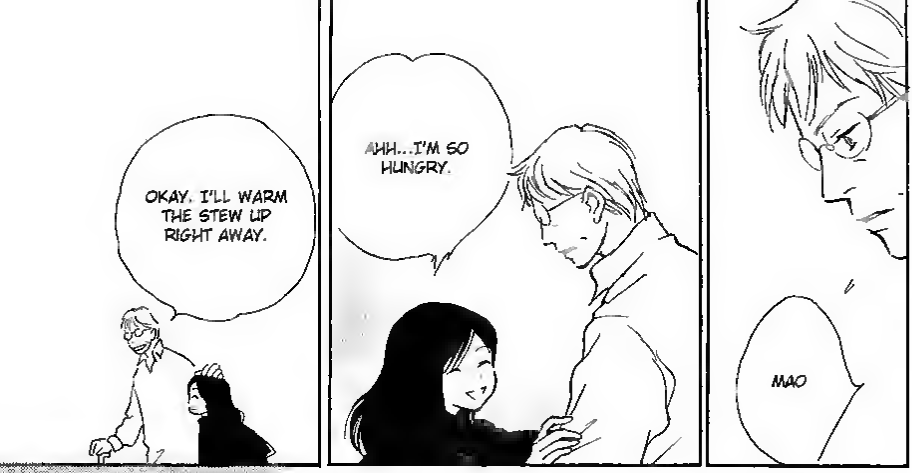
SO IT WAS YOU
GOOD JOB

WHAT ABOUT MY TELEPATHY? DID IT REACH YOU?
UH.. WHAT?
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM YOUR 'TIME'
ALREADY ?
IT'S OVER
HUH? WHAT ABOUT YOUR BREAK?
IF YOU DON'T GO HOME, YOUR PRECIOUS DADDY WILL WORRY.
YOU SMELL LIKE ORANGES
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T SAY THAT, I'M GOING ANYWAY.
PERHAPS
THIS WON'T FADE TOO SOON

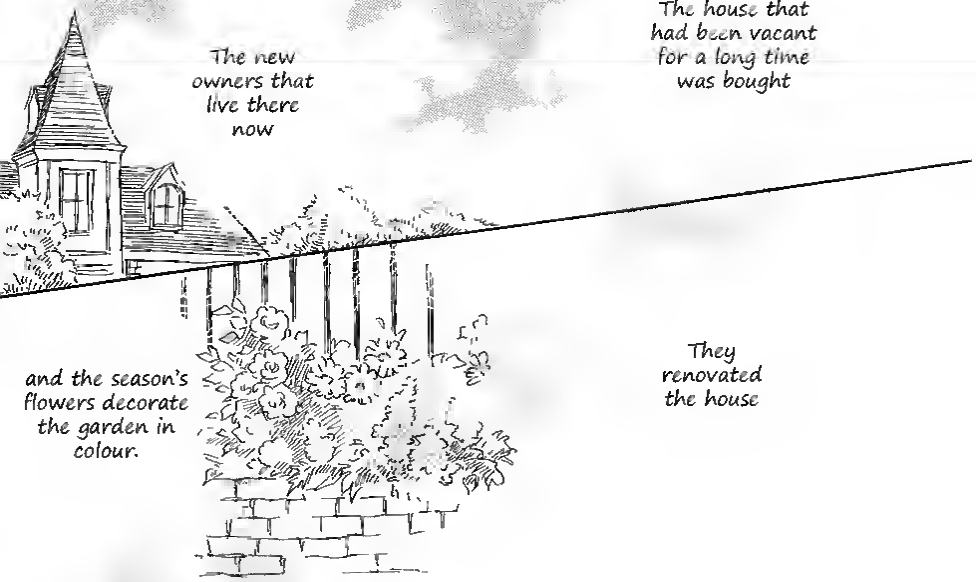
MMHM NN...
WILL YOU ANSWER ALREADY?
I ALREADY PROMISED HER
DON'T FORGET TO LET THAT GIRL MEET HER BROTHER
ALL RIGHT NOW SEE. SOMEONE FROM THAT WORLD IS COMING TO PICK HER UP.
OH.
NOPE.
PARENTS ARE STILL HERE.
They're quite old by now though
MAYBE IT'S HER MOTHER.

SHOW ME YOUR HANDS
?
IT'S A SOUVENIR FROM MY HOLIDAY
...WHERE DID YOU GO?
SOUTHERN ISLANDS.
He was on holiday?
NOW SHE WON'T HAVE TO WAIT IN VAIN ANYMORE
IT'S TOO SCARY TO OPEN...
Good-bye then

I'M HOME!
MAO, YOU'RE LATE.
I WAS SO WORRIED.
SORRY,
I JUST MET SOME FRIENDS ON MY WAY BACK

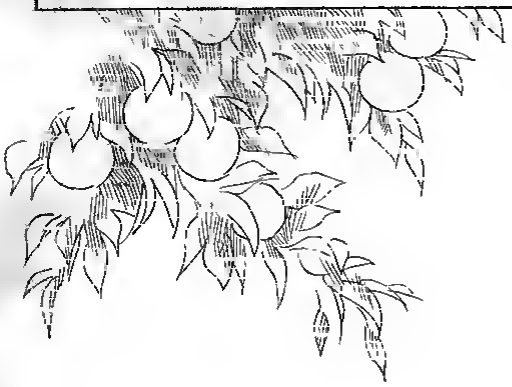

OKAY. I'LL WARM THE STEW UP RIGHT AWAY.
AHH...I'M SO HUNGRY.
MAO

Not long after that
YEP.
But it still smells like oranges
There's more
DELICIOUS?


The house that had been vacant for a long time was bought
The new owners that live there now
They renovated the house
and the season's flowers decorate the garden in colour.

The haunted house disappeared,

but even now

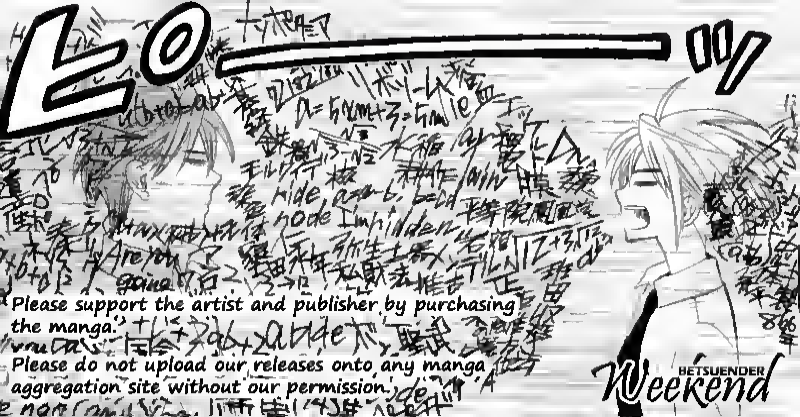


everytime I pass that house

there remains, the smell of oranges...

❖end❖

CREDITS
TRANSLATOR
WAN
TRANSLATION QC
DON
CLEANER
CHUNGKY
TYPSETTER
SORARIN
PROOF-READER
ARAWR
BETSUENDER
Weekend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BETSUENDER
Weekend

HEAVEN'S FAIRY

BY KONNO KITA

天女

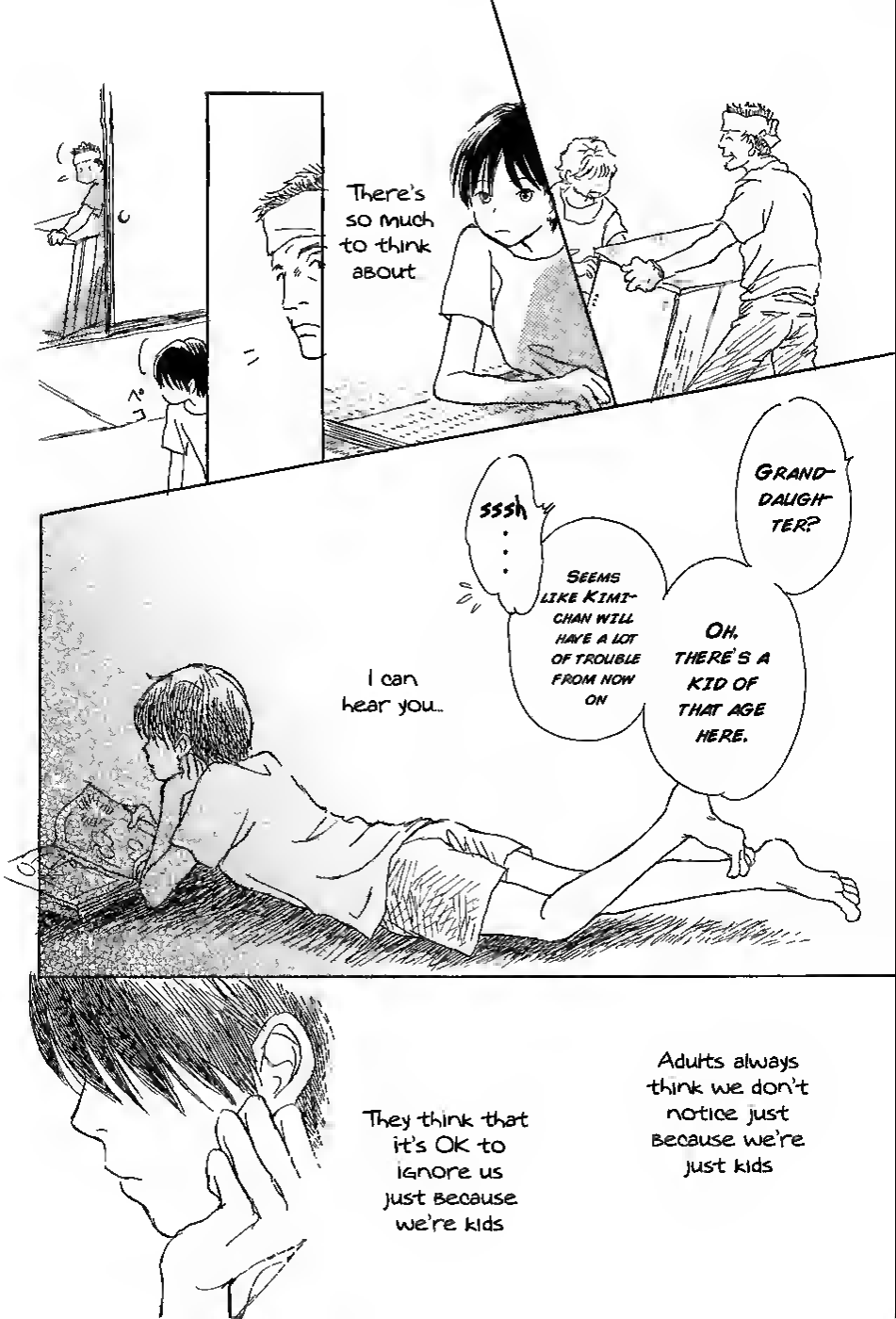
てんにょ

CRICK
I've already promised to go to the pool with Rika-chan and her friends!
I'm not going to grandpa's house because I'm in the 5th grade!
Oh, but it'll be fun with the mountains and rivers
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
Shinobu, you'll be all right by yourself.
You're already in the 5th grade.
CRICK
CRICK
I don't want mountains or rivers...
It isn't crowded like the pool.

AND ALL BY YOURSELF. TOO. WELL DONE!
COME IN. COME IN. SHINOBU-CHAN...
WELCOME! YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED!
STEP IN
I hate this old house because it's dark
IT MUST BE HOT OUTSIDE.
THE WATERMELON IS COLD NOW.
I hate water-melons too
...NO THANKS
flutter
flutter
.....
That's why I didn't want to come here
Must be something in this house

Grandpa!
Grandpa!
Shinobu-chan has arrived!
. . .
Good afternoon.
turns
Sorry, Shinobu-chan.
Grandpa's been a little grouchy lately.
Grouchy...

CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
This is so boring
BAM!
SLAM!
ALL RIGHT, THAT GOES HERE.
But

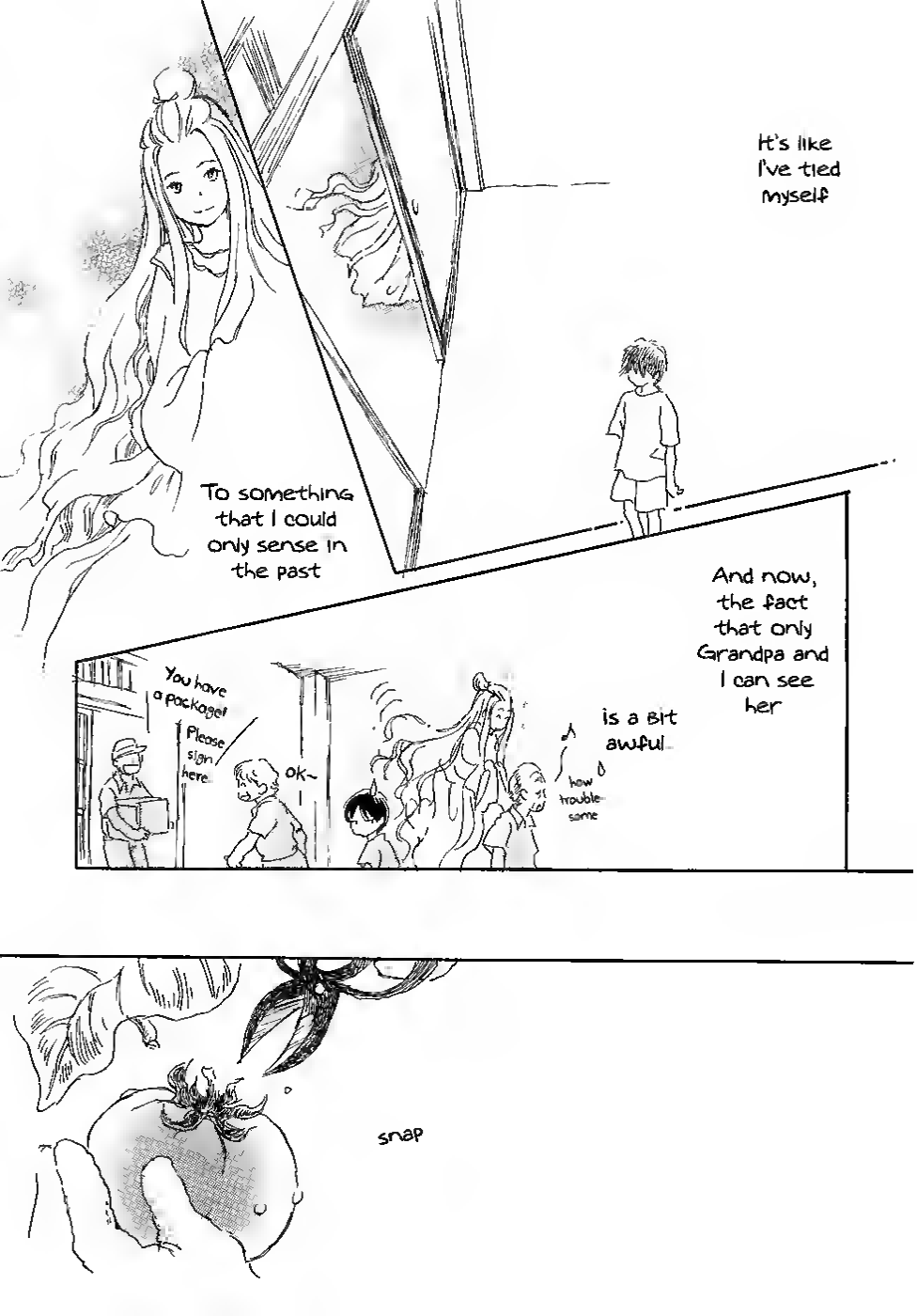

There's so much to think about
GRAND-DAUGHTER?
SSSH....
SEEMS LIKE KIMI-CHAN WILL HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLE FROM NOW ON
OH, THERE'S A KID OF THAT AGE HERE.
I can hear you...
They think that it's OK to ignore us just because we're kids
Adults always think we don't notice just because we're just kids

In the room enclosed on the 2nd floor
There was a long telephone call that night
As soon as summer vacation started,
I was kicked out of the house.
The situation was blatantly obvious
But nobody bothered telling me.
GAH! SHE SAW US!
ZOOM
That's why I hate the countryside.
I'M A GIRL
geez, my bad
rustle
Boy?
Girl?
Don't know

Inside the house, Grandpa was...
YES!
READY?
EH!?
OH, SHINOBU.
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?
AH- GRAND-PA?
WHO IS THAT? WHAT IS...?
A
...SPIRIT?
Kind of?

Oh! What a surprise! It seems that Shinobu can see fairies too.
F... Fairy?
Well, well, it seems you can.
Even Kimiko can't see her.
So from now on she can talk to you.
Grand-pa. Are you okay today?
Or am I the weird one here?
Ah ha ha!
Don't say such things!
I've just been.
possessed by a fairy spirit.

You know. Like being possessed by a fox or raccoon spirit
It's that kind of thing.
Possessed by a fairy?
I won't be around much longer either
Possessed by a fairy?
I've never heard of that.
Oh. Really?
If I can pass this duty on to the next generation,
I can go to that 'world' anytime.
It's more like you're already half way there.
BWAHAHA
Since then..


It's like I've tied myself
To something that I could only sense in the past
And now, the fact that only Grandpa and I can see her
You have a package!
Please sign here
OK~
is a bit awful
how trouble some
snap

Instead of this green-caterpillar-like-rice,
SHINOBU-CHAN, YOU SHOULD EAT MORE VEGETABLES.
It's hot.
I desperately want to eat something like
A BIG MAC or fried chicken,
Or pizza, potato chips, instant noodles
OW!
The vegetables from Grandma's little field
Are really cheeky
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T USE GLOVES
I GOT PRICKED BY SOMETHING.

I like the obedient vegetables in the fridge at home,

They're so much easier to handle.

It's like they're saying

"Don't think it'll be easy to eat us!"

FWISSH !

FWISSH

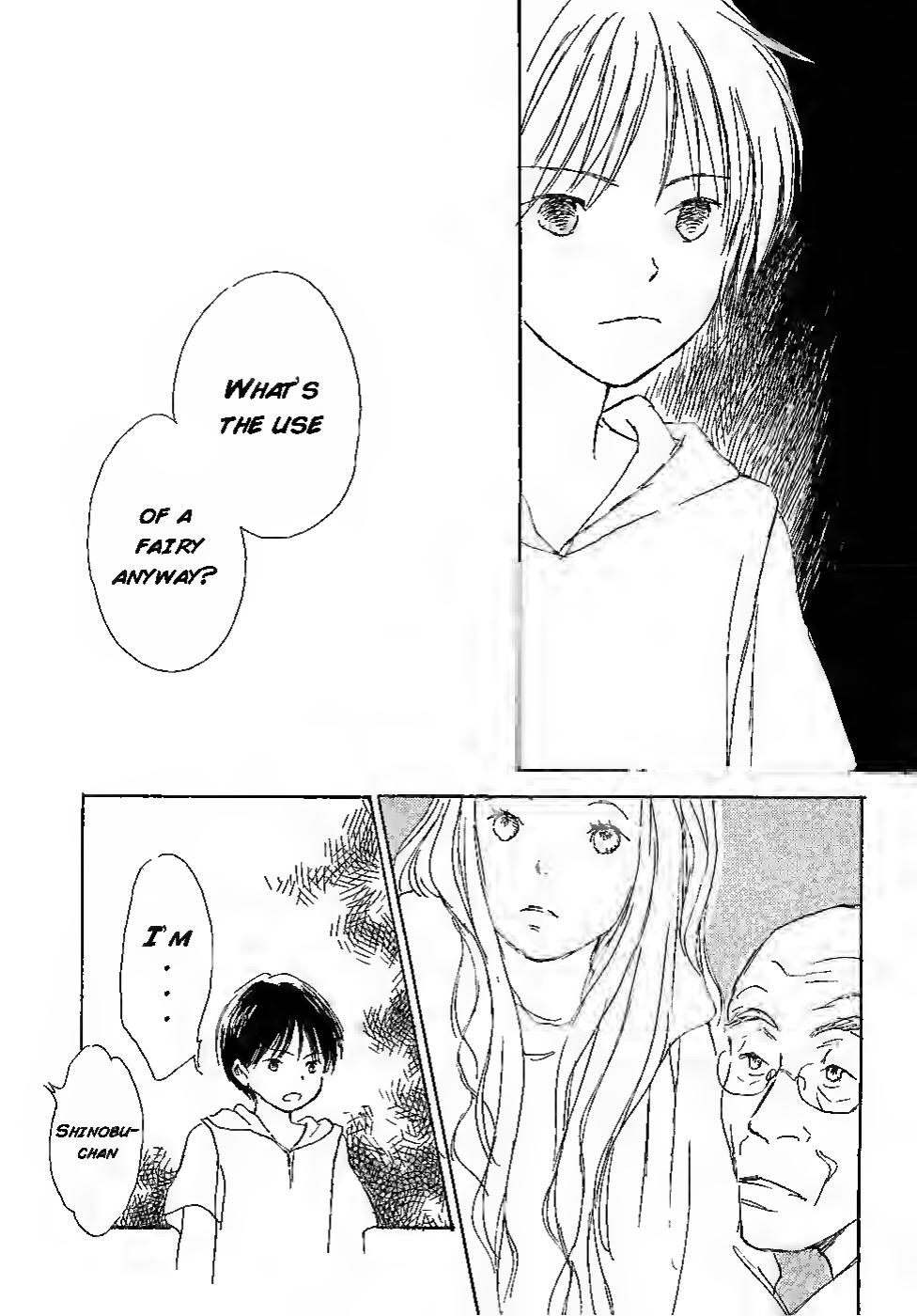
Dad,

stopped eating dinner at home.

Just like students being held back after school

Even when it was getting dark, the laundry was still out at the porch,

But, even I pretended to not notice anything
It was like watching a game everyday, but knowing the same results
ping
SEEMS LIKE GRANDPA IS IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY
RING
haha
She can't see the fairy
YEAH! YEAH!
RING
HELLO?


WHAT'S THE USE OF A FAIRY ANYWAY?
I'M . . . .
SHINOBU-CHAN

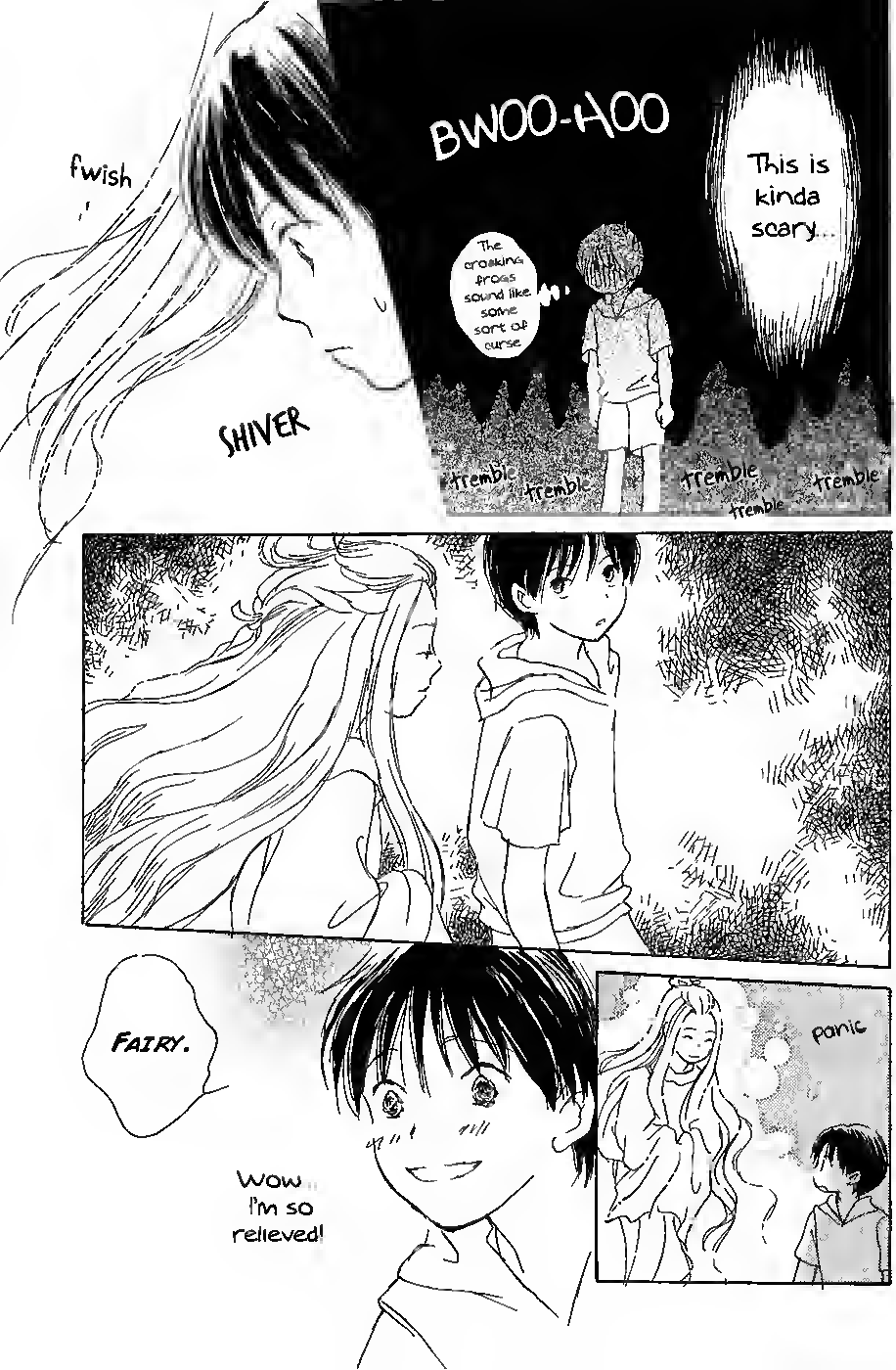
SHINOBU-CHAN.
IT'S A CALL FROM YOUR MOM.
...SHINOBU? YOU SEEM TO BE DOING FINE, THAT'S GREAT.
UM...
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU.
YOUR DAD AND I...
UH-HUH.

I ALREADY KNEW ABOUT IT.
SHINOBU-CHAN... IT MIGHT COME AS A SHOCK, BUT...
ding
MHM.
OK. I UNDERSTAND... SEE YOU.
SHINOBU-CHAN..
.....

CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
it's just like autumn
The crickets are chirping

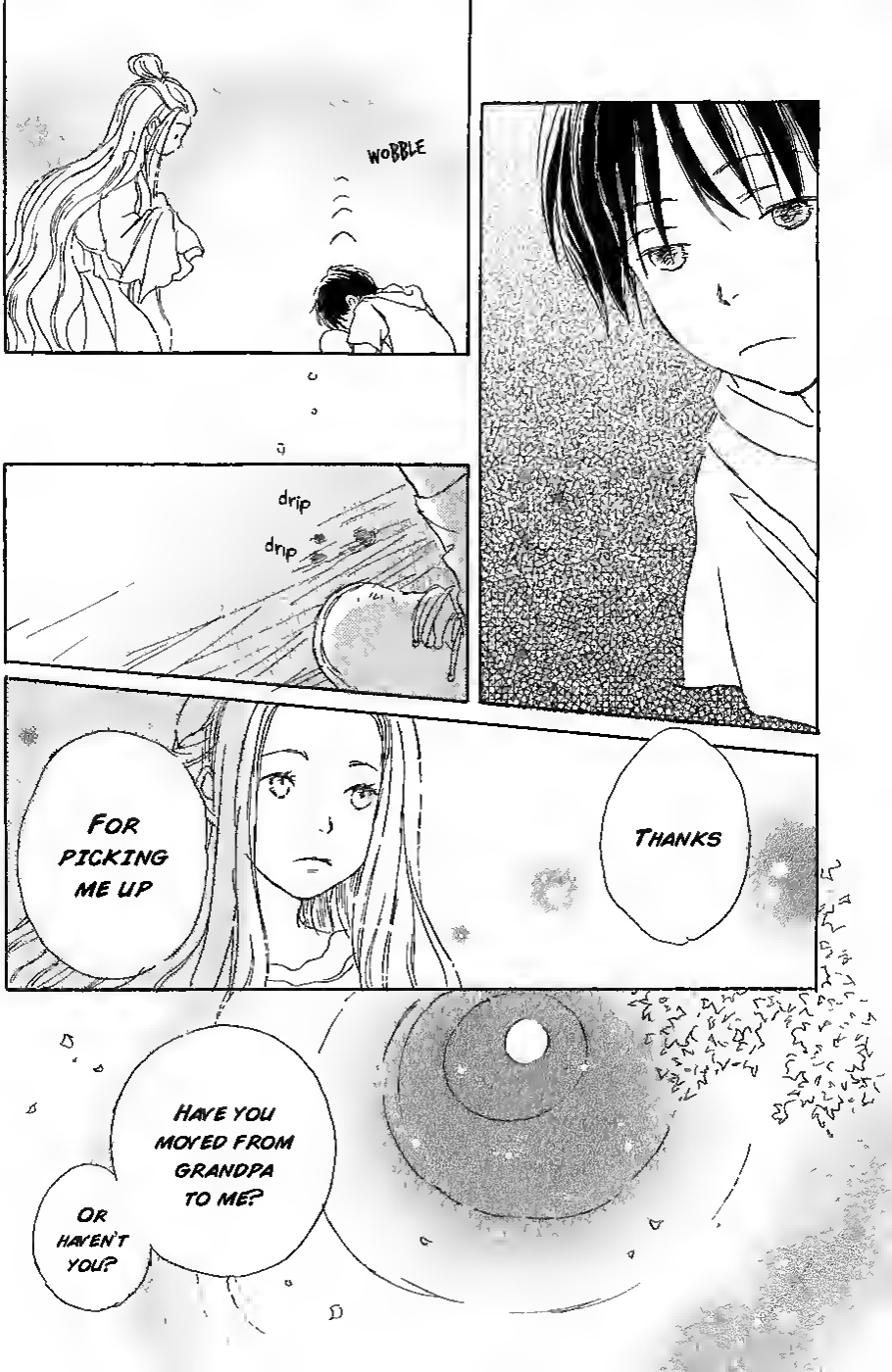
I'm just like laundry hung out at the porch
After all, to those adults
It's completely forgotten.
In a rush
Even if it's getting dark or it's raining
I hate mom and dad
sniff
SSHH
SSHH
AH-CHOO!

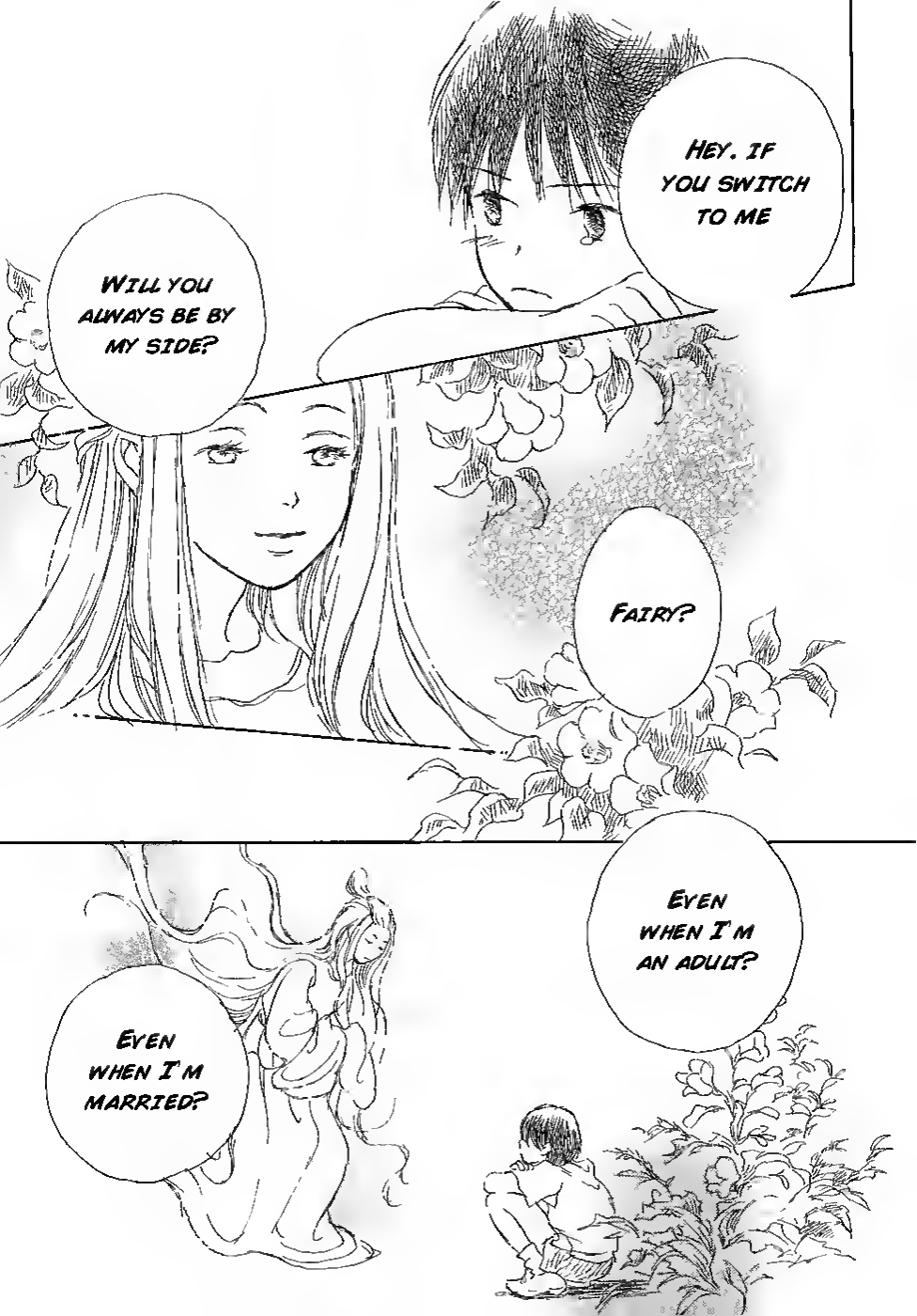
DARKNESS
no way!
When did the sun set?
PITCH BLACK...
There's hardly any light!
AH!
JUMP
cliff
fwip
In any case it should be fine if I just went back the same way.
frog
RIBBIT-
RIBBIT-
RIBBIT-
PANIC
PANIC


fwish
SHIVER
BWOO-HOO
This is kinda scary...
The croaking frogs sound like some sort of curse
tremble
tremble
tremble
tremble
tremble
FAIRY.
Wow... I'm so relieved!
panic

phew
It's just the moon

FWISH
EH?
AH
THERE'S A SHADOW BECAUSE OF THE MOON-LIGHT

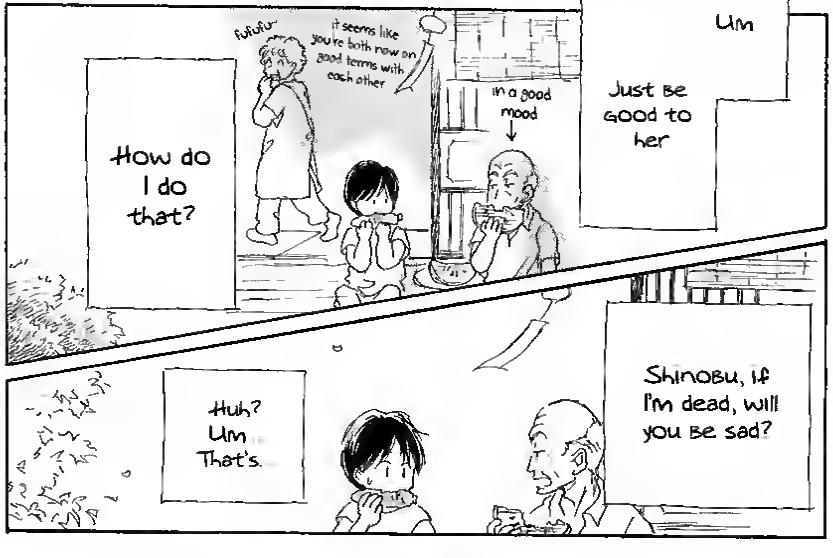

WOBBLE
drip
drip
FOR PICKING ME UP
THANKS
HAVE YOU MOVED FROM GRANDPA TO ME?
OR HAVEN'T YOU?


HEY. IF YOU SWITCH TO ME
WILL YOU ALWAYS BE BY MY SIDE?
FAIRY?
EVEN WHEN I'M AN ADULT?
EVEN WHEN I'M MARRIED?

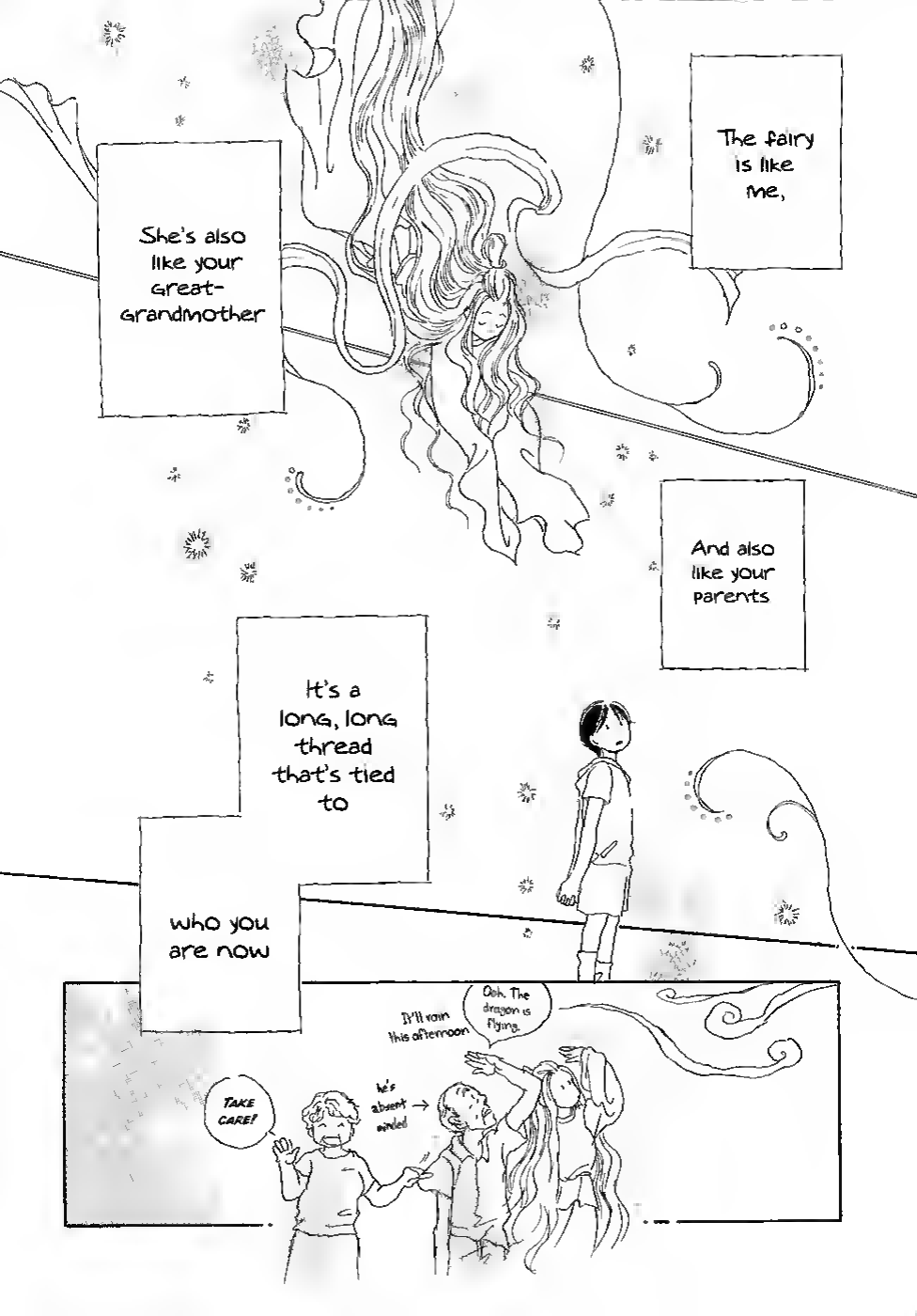
EVEN WHEN I'M UPSET?
Go!
I thought it was great that you two seemed to have fun together
Grandpa

Hey Grandpa,

When I'm looked after by a fairy spirit, what should I do?

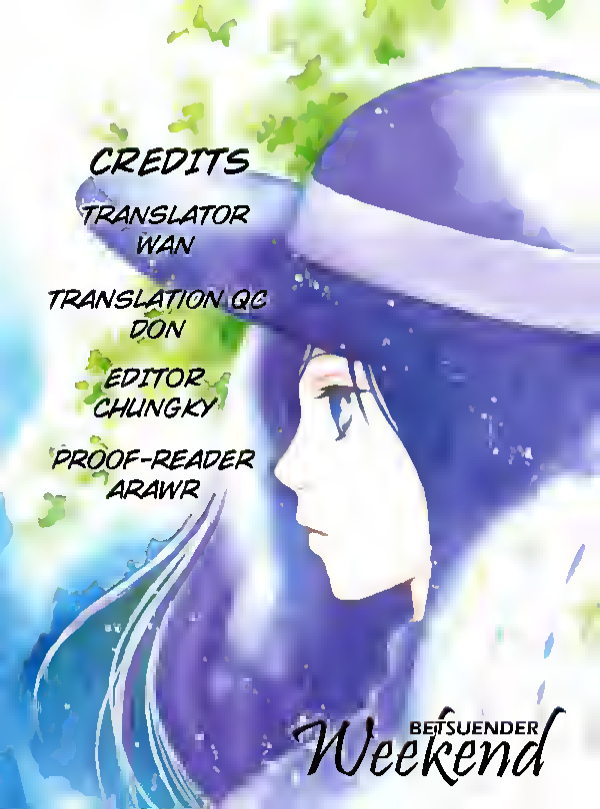

Um
Just be good to her
How do I do that?
fufufu
It seems like you're both now on good terms with each other
in a good mood
Shinobu, if I'm dead, will you be sad?
Huh? Um That's...

It's fine just like that


The fairy is like me,
She's also like your great-grandmother
And also like your parents
It's a long, long thread that's tied to
who you are now
Ooh. The dragon is flying.
It'll rain this afternoon
He's absent-minded
TAKE CARE!

In order to
sort things out,
I went back
home

vroom
I'll come back here again
Hey! You, too, wave your hands!
At the end of this month, together with Mom
I still hate the countryside, but
Being with a fairy isn't that Bad
❖end❖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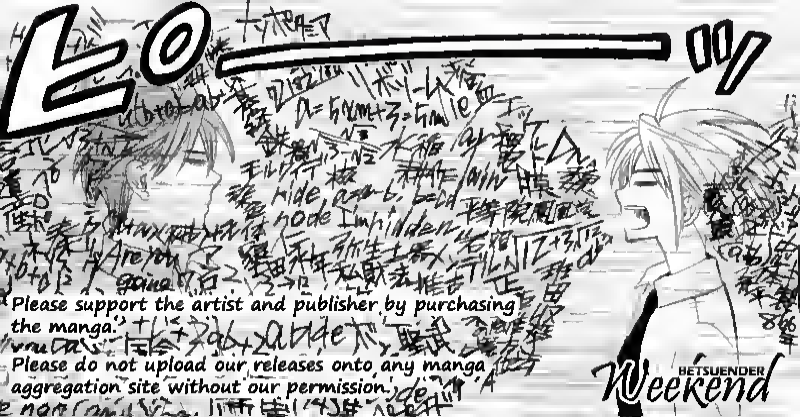
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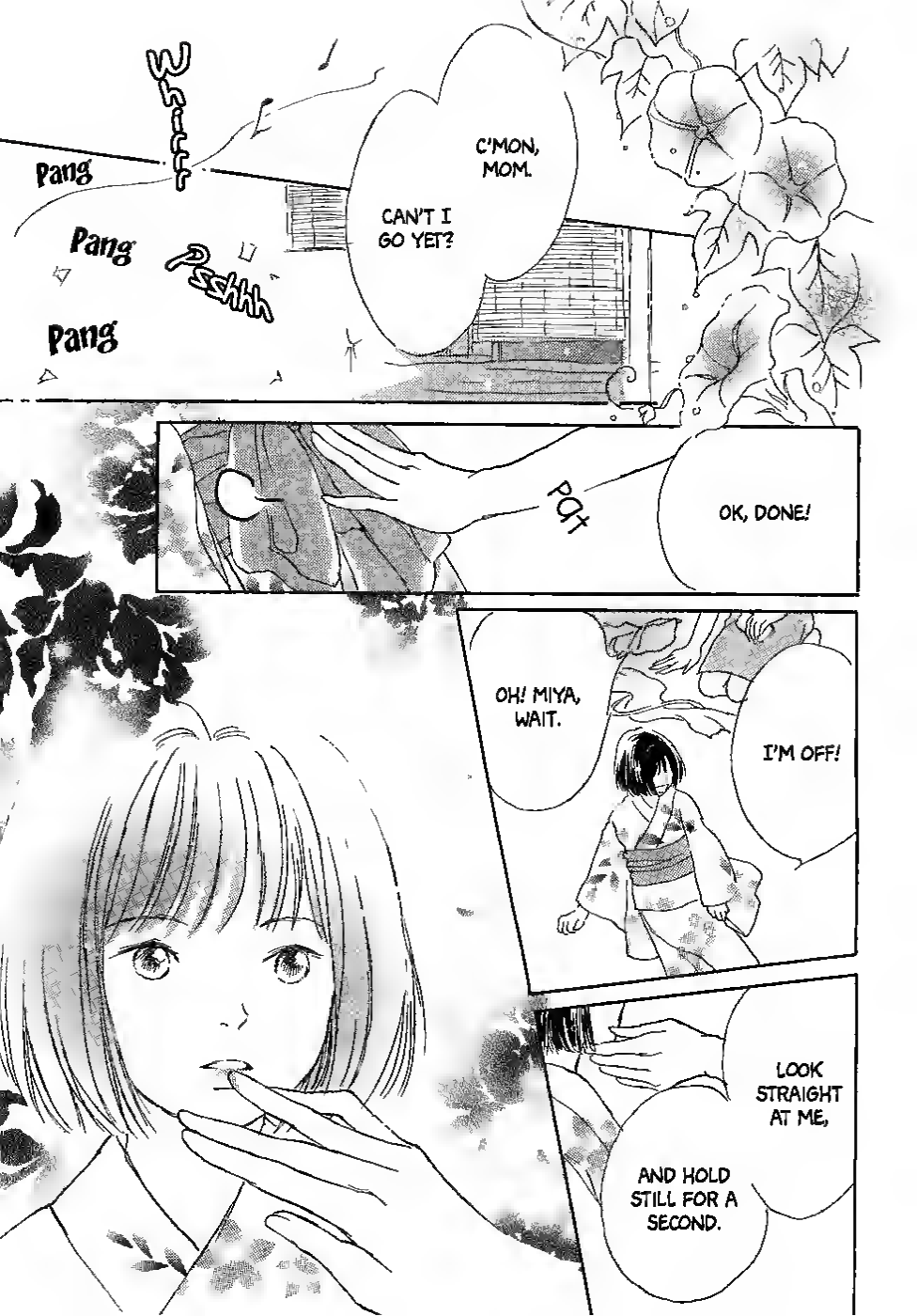
Lovely Strange Dark
SHIRUBE NO MICHI
BY KONNO KITA
STORY 4
Translation: Kalendel
Editing: zakkyliar
QC: hahhah42
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com


Pang
Pang
Pang
C'MON, MOM.
CAN'T I GO YET?
Pat
OK, DONE!
OH! MIYA, WAIT.
I'M OFF!
LOOK STRAIGHT AT ME,
AND HOLD STILL FOR A SECOND.

YEAH, A LITTLE LIPSTICK
REALLY MAKES A GIRL SHINE.
IT DOESN'T LOOK WEIRD?
NOT WEIRD AT ALL. IT'S SUPER CUTE.
BE CAREFUL!
AND DON'T STRAY TOO FAR.
OK!

Foxfire

I'M OFF!
RATTLE

YOUR MOTHER DID ME A FAVOR THE OTHER DAY.
Bow
SO YOU LEFT THESE?
Smile
Nod
OH!

YOU'VE GOT BLOOD ON YOUR ARM.
MISTER,
—SO I DO.
I MUST HAVE SCRAPED MYSELF ON A SHRUB ON MY WAY HERE.
HUMAN SKIN CAN BE SO FRAGILE.
UM...
Human skin?
TAKE THIS.

SAY HI TO YOUR MOM FOR ME.
...THANK YOU.
MIYA?
WHAT'S WRONG? WAS SOMEONE HERE?
MOM.

SOME TALL GUY JUST STOPPED BY.
HE LEFT US THESE.
SOME GUY?
YEAH, HE WAS THIN AND PALE AND HAD SLANTED EYES.
Like this.
THIN AND PALE... OH!
MAYBE IT WAS THE YOUNG MAN I SAVED FROM THE RAIN?
HE SAID TO SAY HI TO YOU.
SPLOOSH
Want to share?
It's August
...PERSIM-MONS, HMM.
YEAH, THEY'RE PERSIM-MONS.
YOUR DAD LOVES THEM.
Let's take them.
YOU LIKE THEM TOO, MOM.

MIYAAAA!
Occa-
sionally,
You look so cute, Mayu! ♡
You do too!
odd little gifts
appear on our doorstep just like that.
Whirr
Pang
Pang
Pang

MAYU.
PANG
Things like freshly-plucked flowers, or fruits and vegetables that look straight from the garden.
MAYU?
PANG
PANG
PANG
We even get out of season things, and they're always ripe.
OH, IT'S YOU, MIYA?
PANG
PANG
PANG
HMM?
Smirk
Far some unknown reason,
my young imagination had come to the conclusion that the people who leave them aren't human
D'YOU GET ABANDONED AGAIN?

Raahh!!
MIYAAA'S ADOPTED!
GOT LEFT BEHIND
RIGHT HERE AT EITOKU TEMPLE!
AHAHAHA
MIYA THE THROW-AWAY GIRLLL!
Raahh!!
NOT TRUE!
I AM NOT!
I'VE GOT A MOM AND DAD!
SNAP
AH!
FLARE

Slide
WHAT THE HECK!?
AH-
AH-
But it's not hot.
Fire?
COME.
COME,
THIS WAY.
Turn
UM...

WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
YOUR LANTERN
WENT OUT.
THERE'S NO LIGHT.
YOU SHOULD LIGHT IT.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MATCHES.

SHE SAID MATCHES.
DID YOU HEAR?
HEHE
HEHE
MATCHES.
HEHE
HEHE
LOOK.
FLARE
WHY WOULD YOU NEED THEM?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO
IS HOLD YOUR HAND OVER IT.
I CAN'T DO THAT!
YES, YOU CAN.
YOU CAN.
YOU CAN.
YOU CAN.

FLARE
SEE, YOU DID IT.
WE KNEW IT.
WE KNEW YOU COULD.
YOU'RE ONE OF US.
NOW, LET'S GO.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

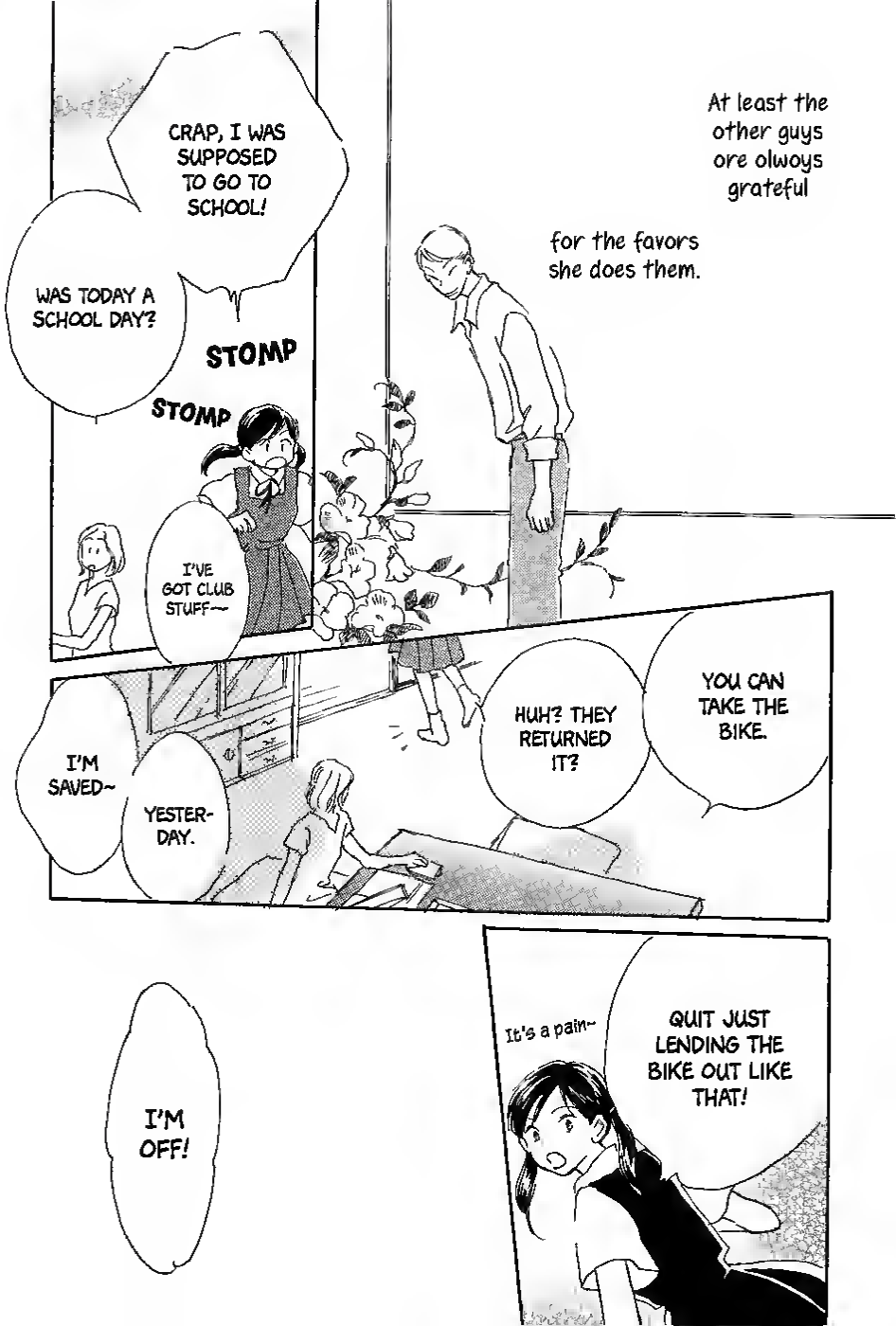
I'M
GOING HOME...!

I ran off in shock, filled with terror.
The stares of those children in fox masks
stabbed into my back.
It was as if that dark gateway would suck me in
if I looked back even once—

MOM!
THERE ARE FLOWERS BY THE DOOR!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
OH! THEY'RE WINTERSWEET FLOWERS. THEY SMELL LOVELY.
Wintersweet
They do smell great♡
THEY BLOOM IN THE WINTER.
YEAH.
MOM, YOU MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING AGAIN.
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S A BAD THING.
Talked to
or helped out someone weird

It turns aut
Fetch me a vase, Miya.
SOMEONE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF LEAVING THESE FOR US, SO I'LL USE THEM TO DECORATE THE MEMORIAL INSIDE.
Tap
fey creatures on a regular basis.
that my mam happens across
Morning, big brother.
It's already noon
THEY REALLY DO SMELL GOOD.
Click
Click
Click

HOW MANY YEARS NOW HAVE YOU BEEN PRESIDENT?
THEY SHOULD ROTATE WORK EVERY YEAR.
MORE WORK FOR THE LADIES' ASSOCIATION?
YES.
Ladies Hard at Work
HO HO HO
YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A PUSHOVER!
Click
Click
EVERYONE'S JUST SO BUSY.
PLUS, I DON'T HAVE A DAY JOB.
I Won't be able to count.
PLEASE DON'T TALK TO ME RIGHT NOW.
I CAN ALWAYS RELY ON MY LADIES.


At least the other guys are always grateful
for the favors she does them.
CRAP, I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO TO SCHOOL!
WAS TODAY A SCHOOL DAY?
STOMP
STOMP
I'VE GOT CLUB STUFF~
I'M SAVED~
YESTER-DAY.
HUH? THEY RETURNED IT?
YOU CAN TAKE THE BIKE.
It's a pain~
QUIT JUST LENDING THE BIKE OUT LIKE THAT!
I'M OFF!

EE EE EE K!!
FWOOSH
IS SHE GOING FASTER THAN THE CAR?
SHE'S REALLY FAST!
VRM
SCREEE
...MOM!
HAA--
HAA-
HAAA--
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU LEND THE BIKE TO?
It goes so fast My eyes can't keep up.

...MOM?
OH HI, MIYA. THAT WAS FAST.
I FEEL A LITTLE SLUGGISH.
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU FEEL WARM. MAYBE YOU CAUGHT A COLD?
I'LL HEAD TO THE PHARMACY.
BE RIGHT BACK!
NO GOOD, WE'RE OUT OF MEDICINE ...
THAT'S OK, I'LL JUST SLEEP IT OFF.
NO WAY!
You have to take summer colds seriously.

FORGIVE ME FOR JUST DROPPING BY.
OH!
UM, SHE'S IN BED WITH A COLD RIGHT NOW.
Bow
YOUR MOTHER—
I KNOW.
I'M HERE TO WISH HER WELL.
SHE DID MY SON A FAVOR SOME TIME AGO.

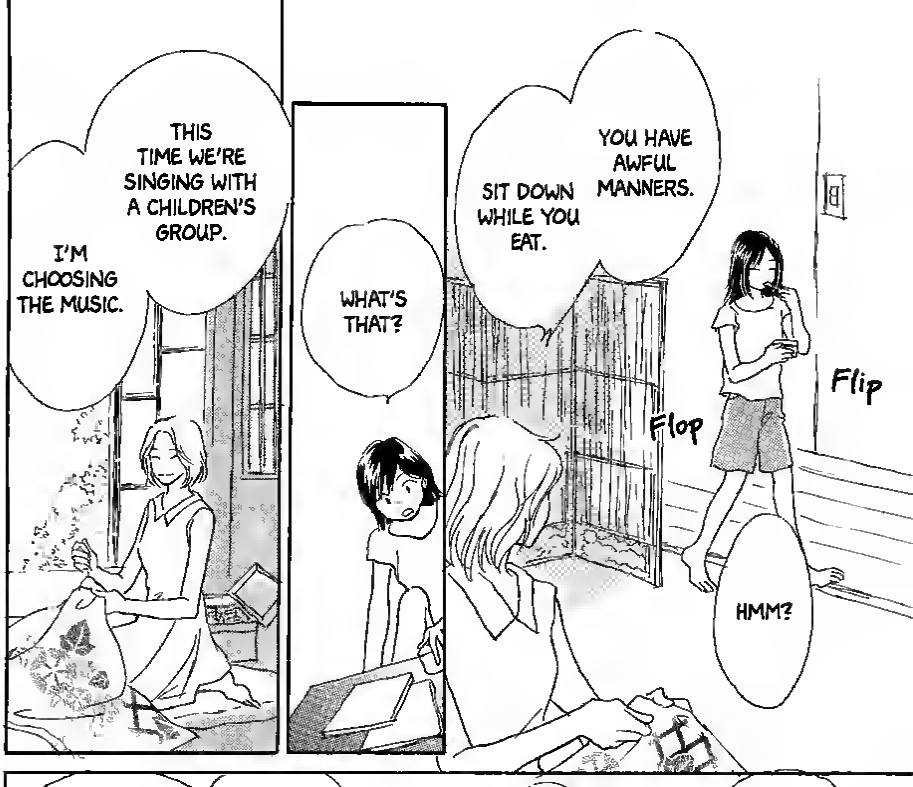
HUH?
OH, OK. THANKS...
THIS IS FOR YOUR MOTHER.
—She already knows?
What is it?
IT'S NOT HEAVY.
PUFF
Bdmp
AND YET, IT SEEMS THAT THE BLOOD OF MEN LIES THICKER IN YOU.
PART US, PART THEM.
YOU ARE A LOSTLING.
LOST-LING?

YOU-
YOU KNOW MY PARENTS?
WOULD HAVE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ENTRUST YOU TO HUMANS.
THUS YOUR PARENTS
I-I'M 14. Ma'am.
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
NO, ONLY THEIR CLAN.
BUT THE SPARK OF HUMANITY IN YOU WILL EVENTUALLY FADE AWAY.
IT MAY TAKE A HUNDRED YEARS,

MY SON TOOK A GREAT LIKING TO YOU.
HE ASKED ME TO VISIT AND SEE WHAT KIND OF LADY YOU'D BECOME.
AND SO I CAME.
HOWEVER,
I WILL ASK MY SON TO PAUSE IN HIS PURSUIT OF YOU, FOR NOW.

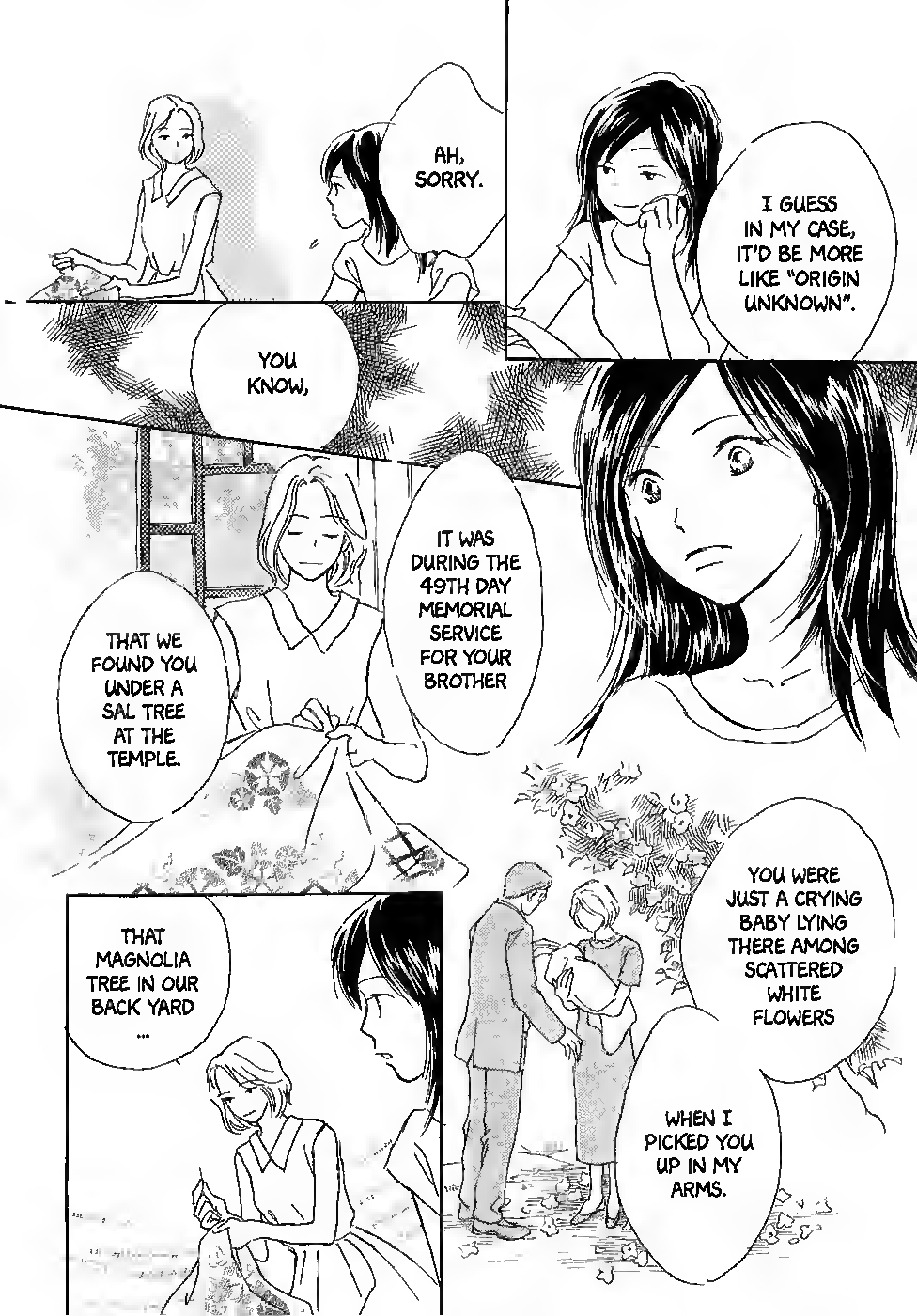
BE WELL.
Slide
swish

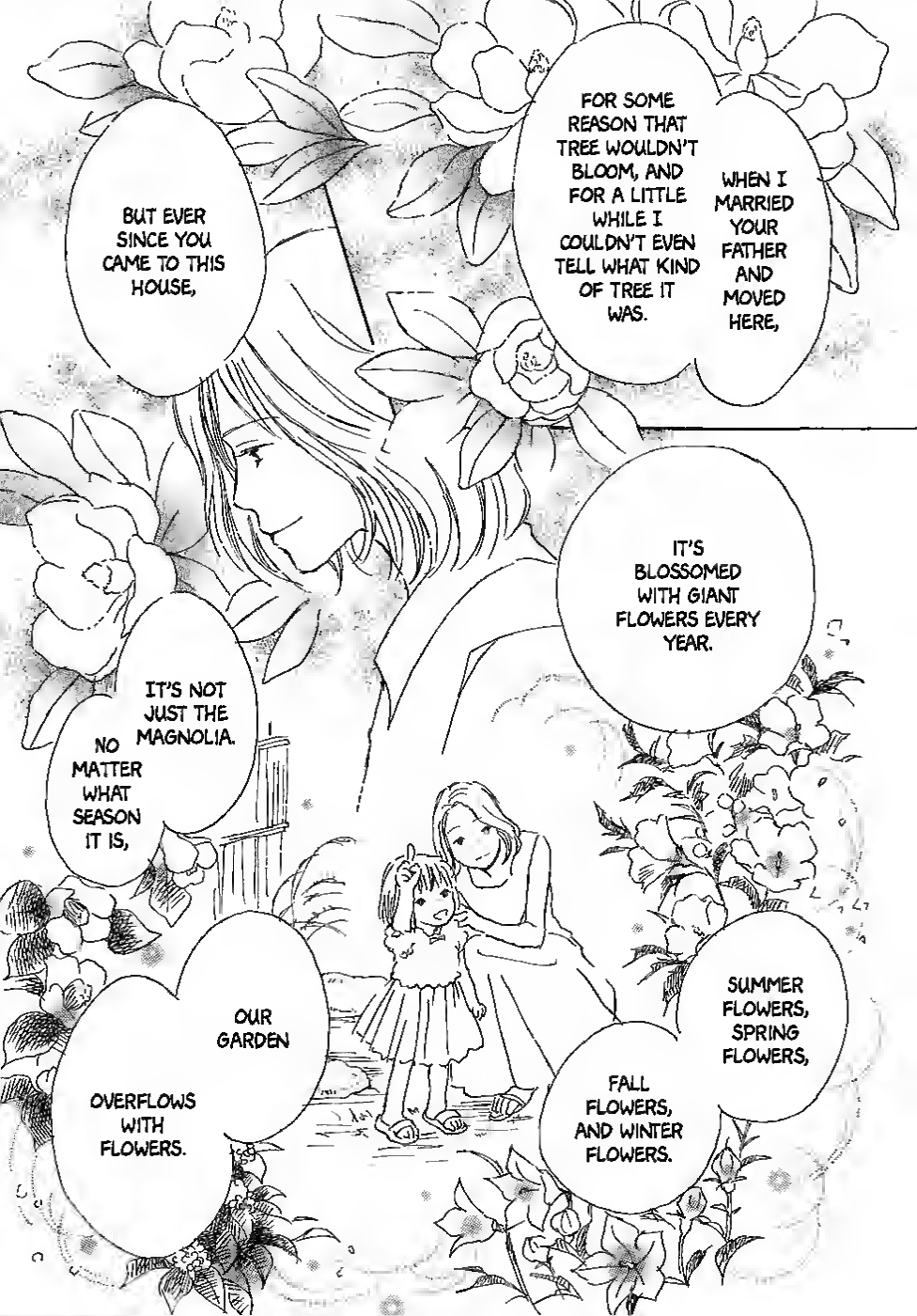
I JUST SUDDENLY FEEL BETTER.
MOM?
OH MY.
LOOKS LIKE MY FEVER WENT DOWN, TOO.
...SHE REALLY WAS HERE TO WISH YOU WELL.
Is that a wrapping cloth?
What a nice pattern.

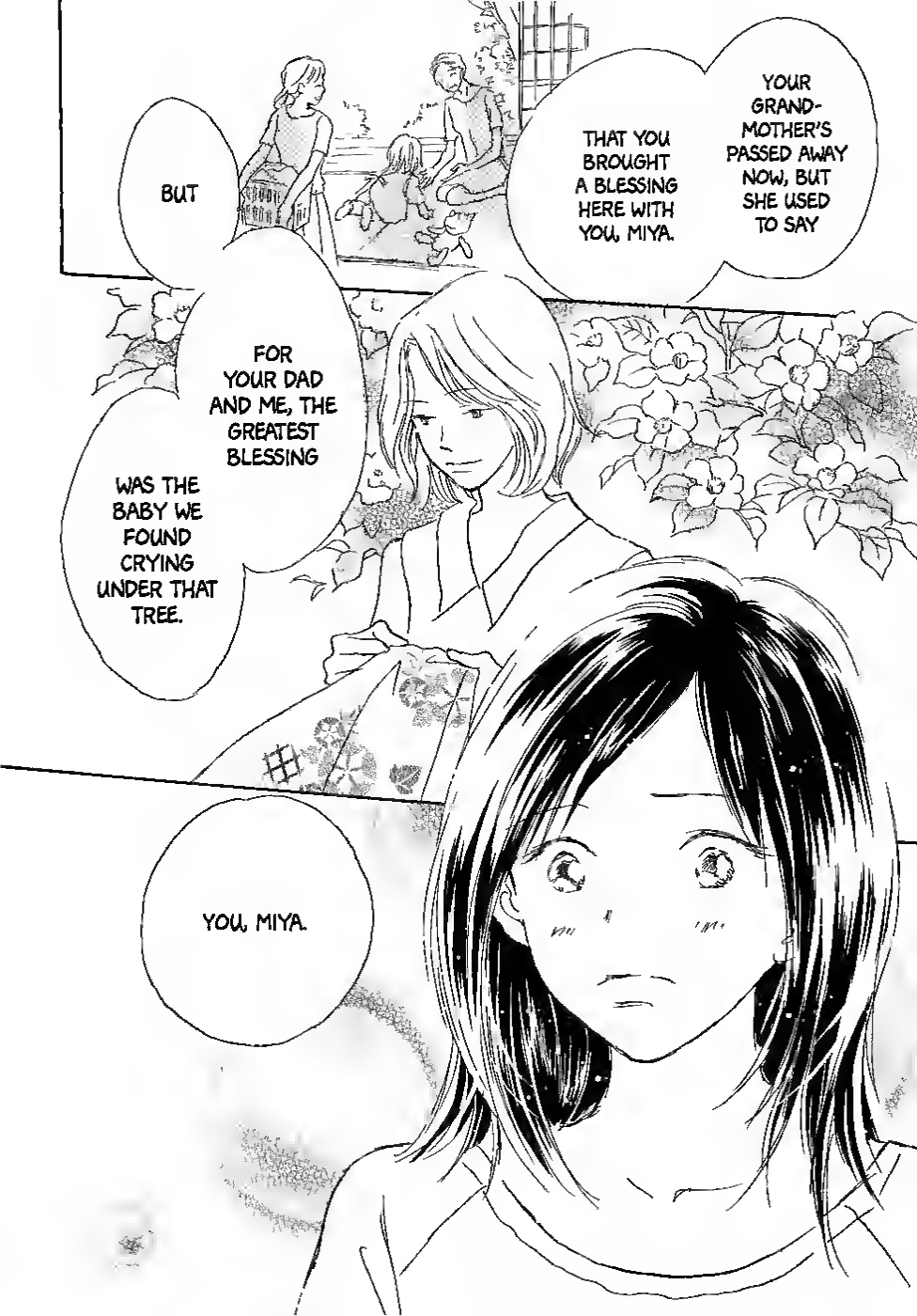

THIS TIME WE'RE SINGING WITH A CHILDREN'S GROUP.
I'M CHOOSING THE MUSIC.
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU HAVE AWFUL MANNERS.
SIT DOWN WHILE YOU EAT.
Flop
Flip
HMM?

HUH? THE COMPOSER IS UNKNOWN... OH, THIS ONE TOO.
OH, I KNOW THIS ONE.
Flip
"SONGS FROM THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE".
BUT THE LYRICISTS AND COMPOSERS ARE UNKNOWN... THAT'S SURPRISING.
THESE SONGS ARE FAMOUS ENOUGH TO BE PRINTED IN A TEXT BOOK,

THAT'S BECAUSE A LOT OF THEM WERE MADE BY COMMITTEE.
SOME OF THE SONGS HAD THEIR COMPOSERS IDENTIFIED LATER ON, THOUGH.
NO WAY~ THAT SOUNDS SO ROMANTIC.
THOSE REALLY OLD POETRY COLLECTIONS WERE THE SAME, THE MANYOUSHUU AND KOKINSHUU...
IT'S AMAZING
THAT THE BEAUTY OF THE WORDS AND MELODIES HAVE SURVIVED ALL THIS TIME
WITH THEIR CREATORS UNKNOWN.
MIYA, YOU'RE SO SENTIMENTAL.


AH, SORRY.
I GUESS IN MY CASE, IT'D BE MORE LIKE "ORIGIN UNKNOWN".
YOU KNOW,
IT WAS DURING THE 49TH DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR YOUR BROTHER
THAT WE FOUND YOU UNDER A SAL TREE AT THE TEMPLE.
YOU WERE JUST A CRYING BABY LYING THERE AMONG SCATTERED WHITE FLOWERS
WHEN I PICKED YOU UP IN MY ARMS.
THAT MAGNOLIA TREE IN OUR BACK YARD ...

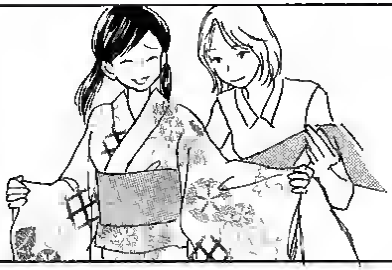

WHEN I MARRIED YOUR FATHER AND MOVED HERE,
FOR SOME REASON THAT TREE WOULDN'T BLOOM, AND FOR A LITTLE WHILE I COULDN'T EVEN TELL WHAT KIND OF TREE IT WAS.
BUT EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO THIS HOUSE,
IT'S BLOSSOMED WITH GIANT FLOWERS EVERY YEAR.
IT'S NOT JUST THE MAGNOLIA.
NO MATTER WHAT SEASON IT IS,
SUMMER FLOWERS, SPRING FLOWERS,
FALL FLOWERS, AND WINTER FLOWERS.
OUR GARDEN
OVERFLOWS WITH FLOWERS.


YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S PASSED AWAY NOW, BUT SHE USED TO SAY
THAT YOU BROUGHT A BLESSING HERE WITH YOU, MIYA.
BUT
FOR YOUR DAD AND ME, THE GREATEST BLESSING
WAS THE BABY WE FOUND CRYING UNDER THAT TREE.
YOU, MIYA.

COME TRY IT ON.
HUH? THAT'S FOR ME?
SNIP
OK, IT'S DONE.
With this pattern?
WHAT, DID YOU THINK IT WAS FOR YOUR DAD?
in the darkness of that shrine,
I won't waver.
Even if I once again come across foxfire

Like the little gifts

left ononymously by our door,



I'll olso be oble to give bock to the people I love.

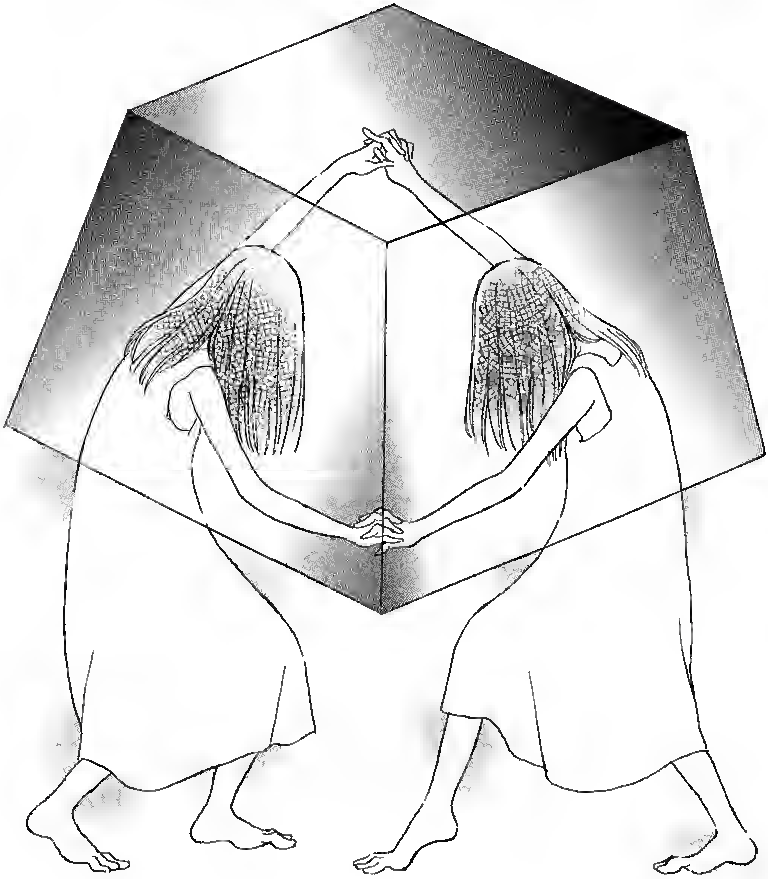
I hope thot one doy

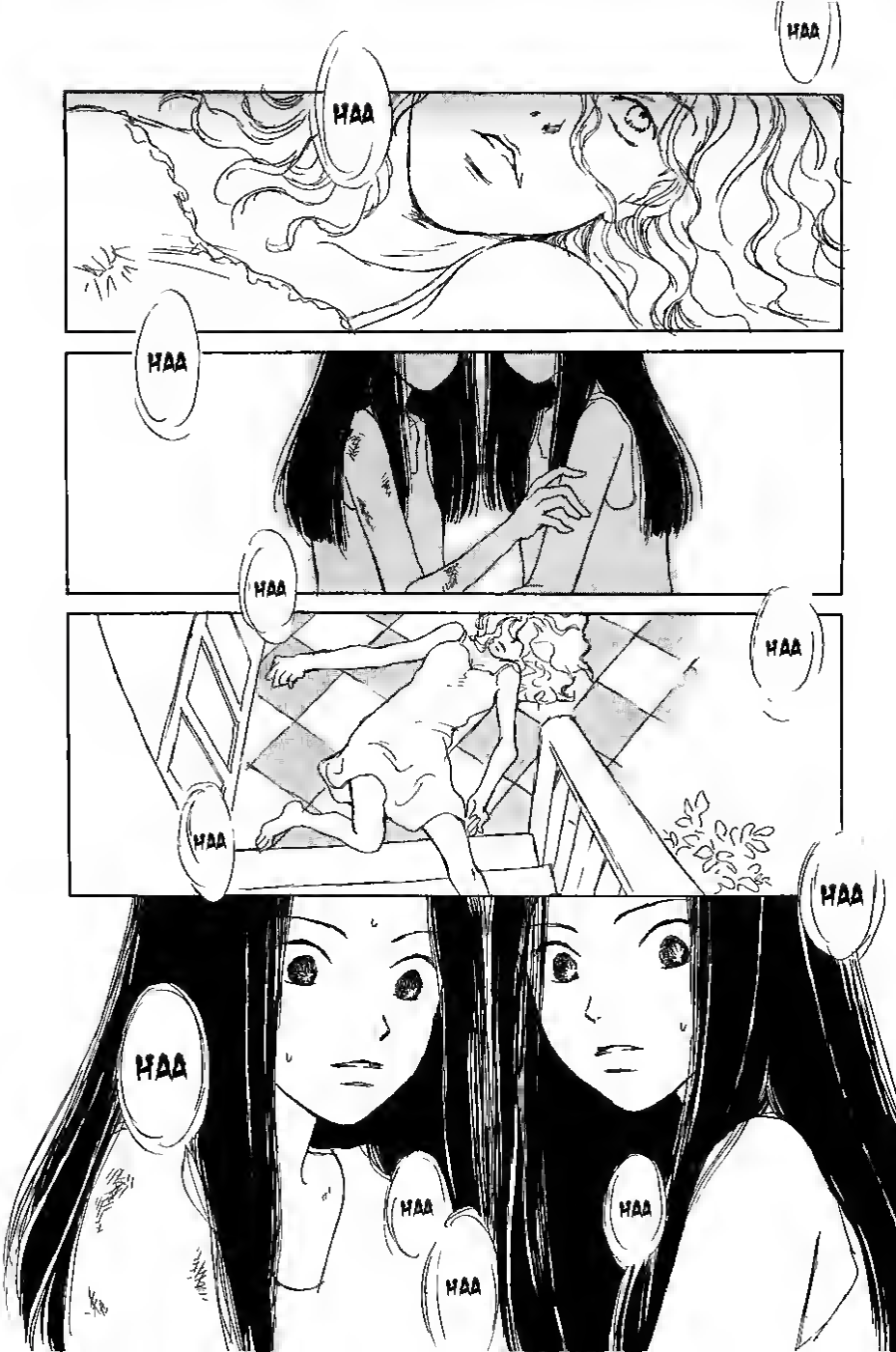
That is my greatest wish of all.

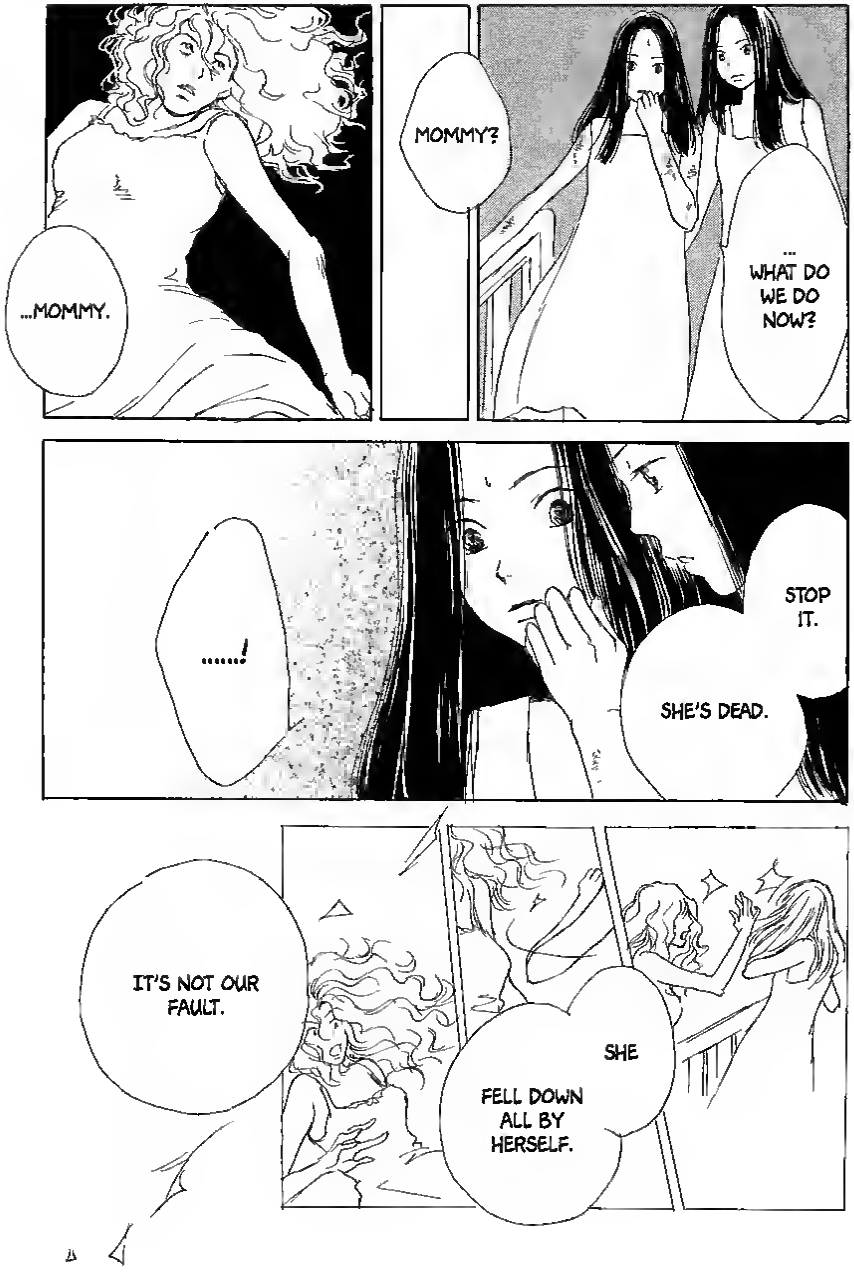
❖end❖

Lovely Strange Dark
SHIRUBE NO MICHI
BY KONNO KITA
STORY 5
Translation: Kalendel
Editing: zakkyliar
QC: hahhah42
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

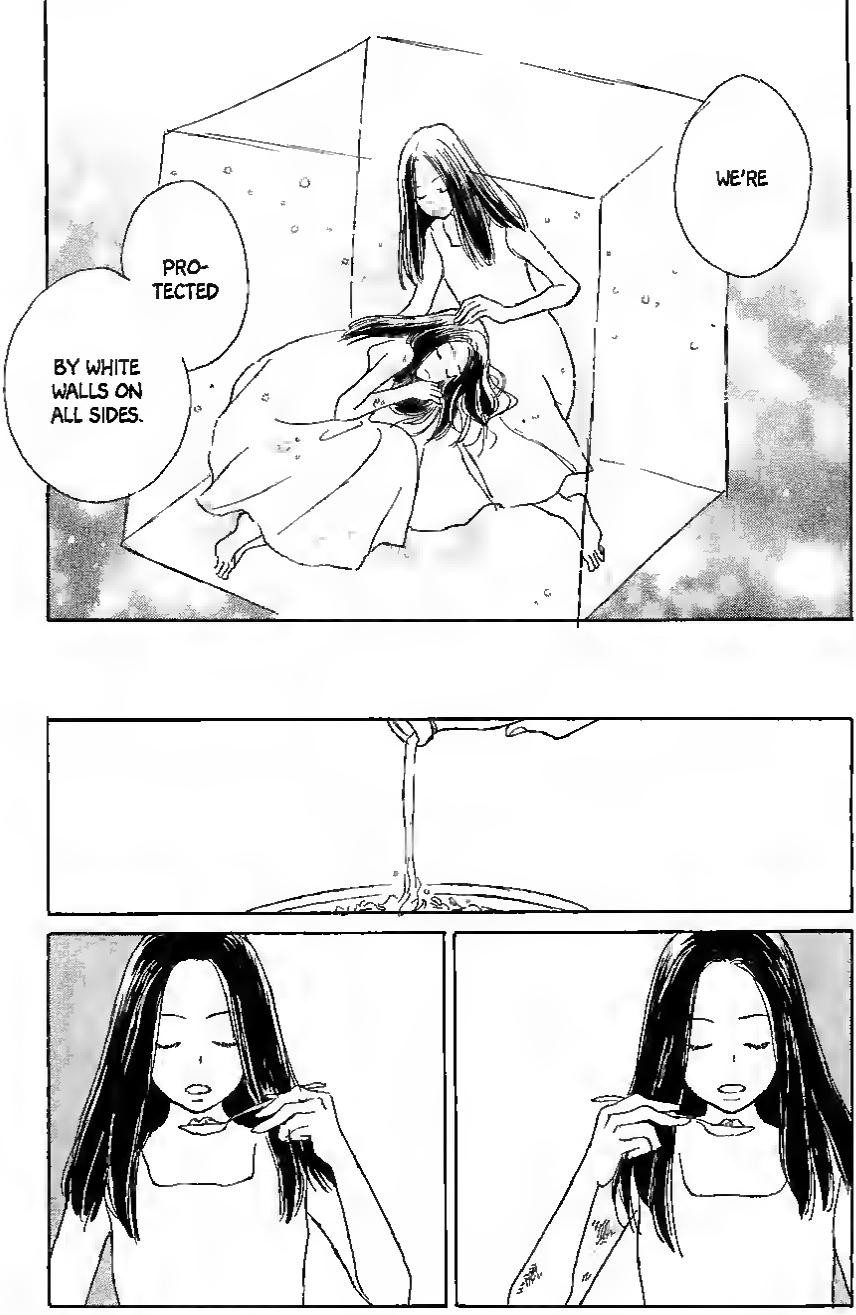
Box

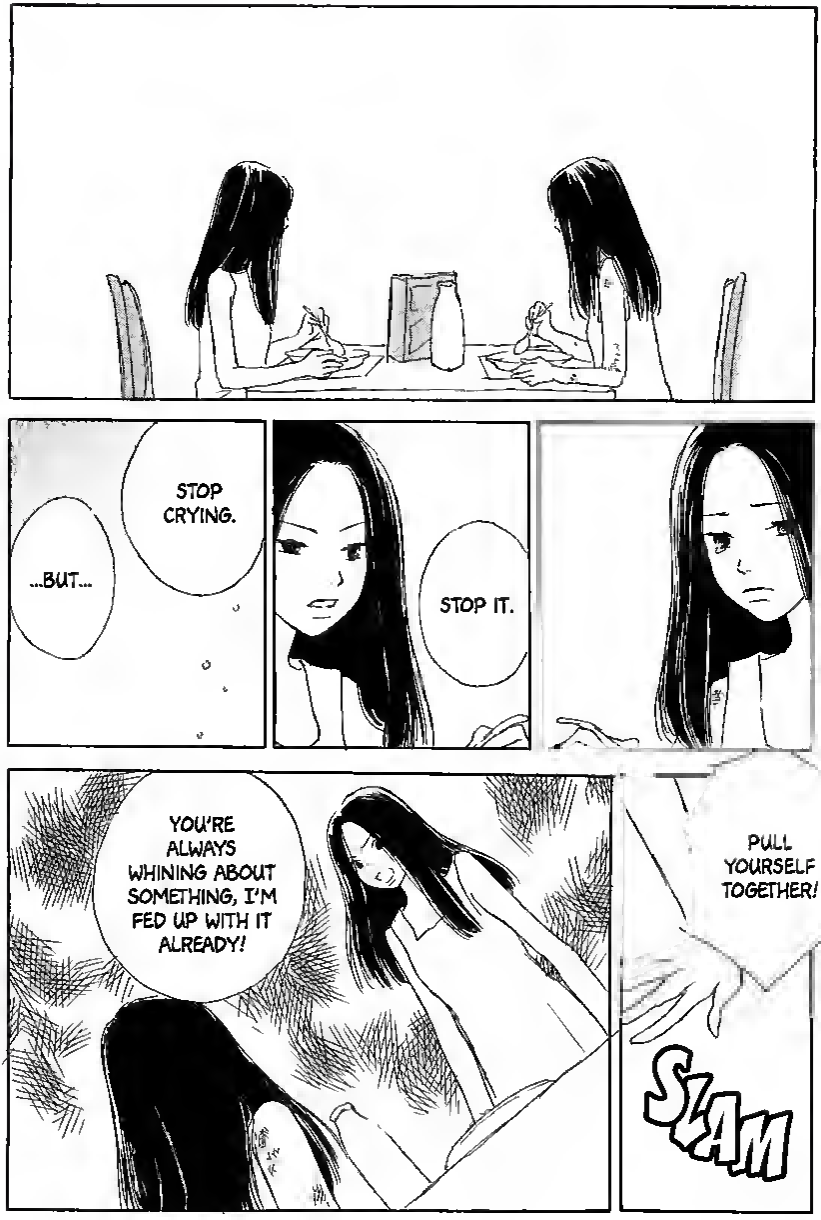


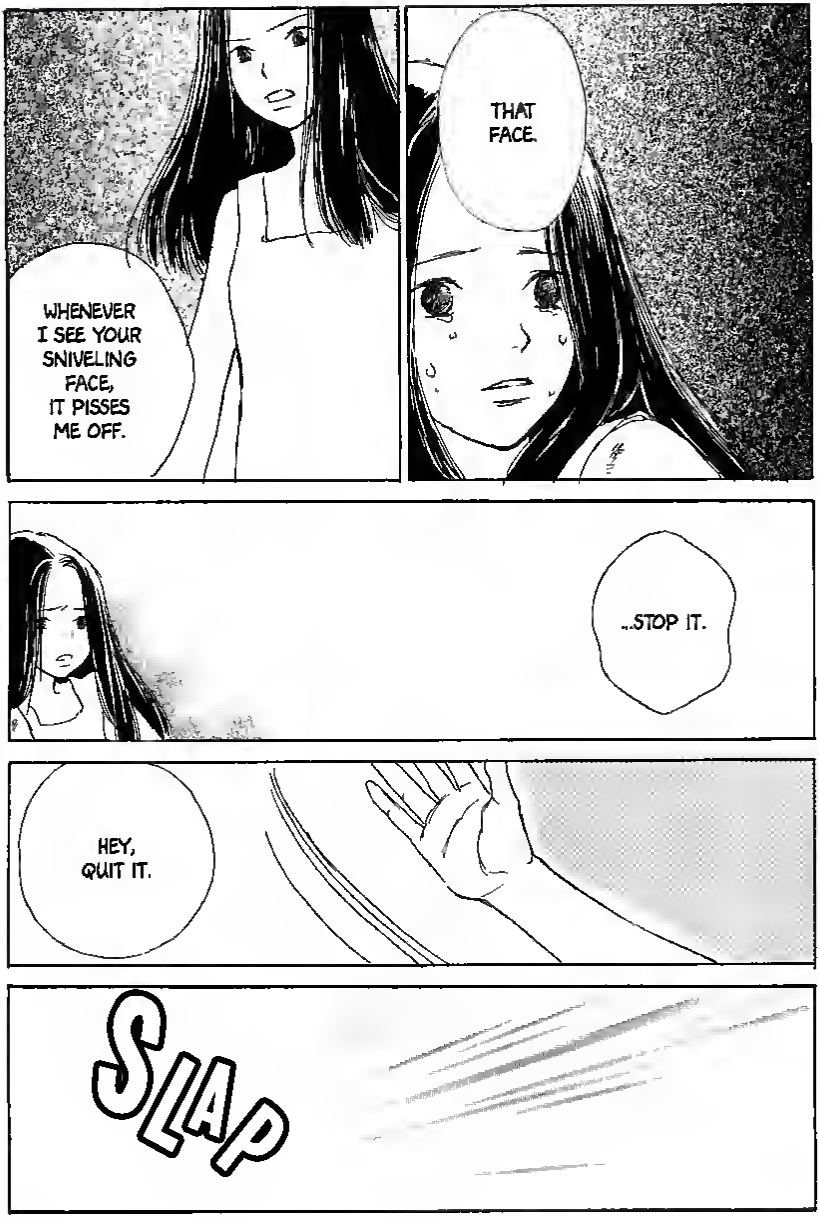

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

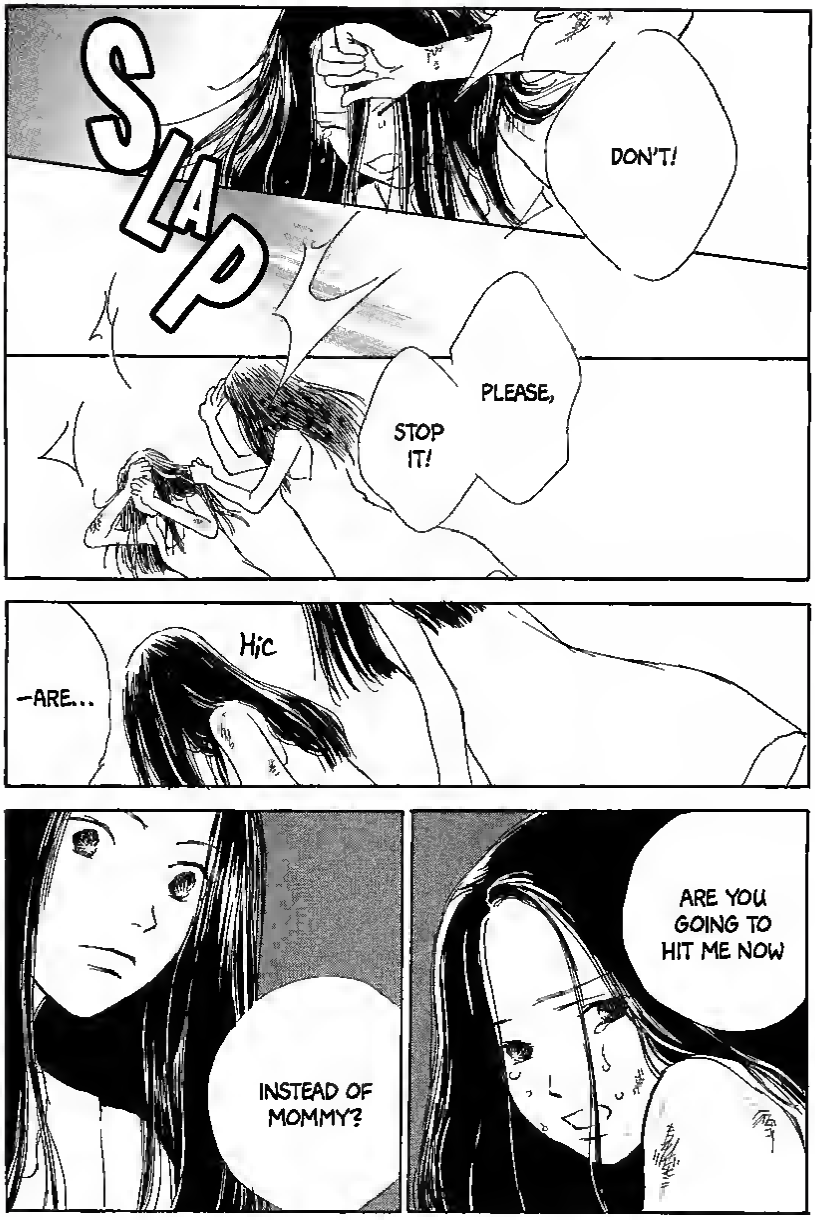

...MOMMY.
MOMMY?
... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
.....!
STOP IT.
SHE'S DEAD.
IT'S NOT OUR FAULT.
SHE FELL DOWN ALL BY HERSELF.

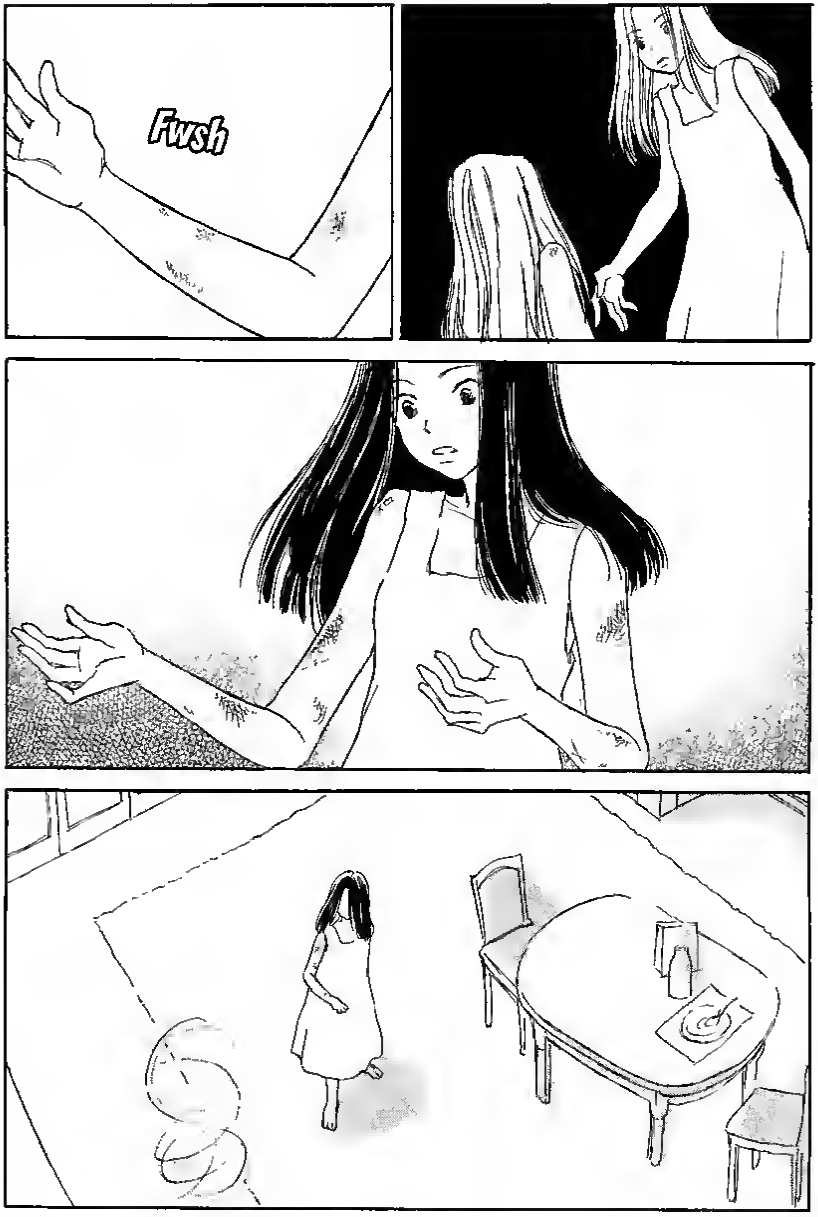
...BUT...
DON'T WORRY.
YOU HAVE TO CALM DOWN SOME, OK?
LISTEN,
DON'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE.
WE'RE HERE IN A SOLID BOX.

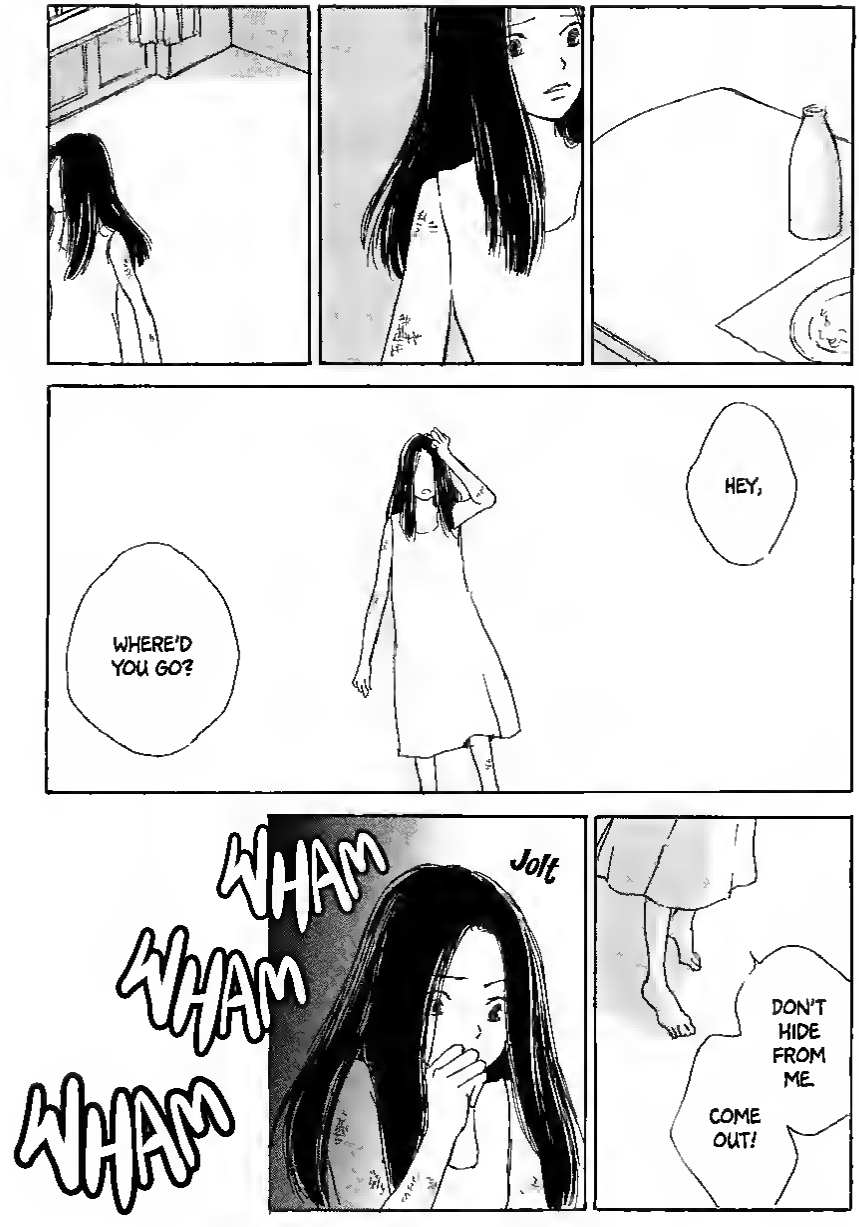

WE'RE
PRO-
TECTED
BY WHITE
WALLS ON
ALL SIDES.


STOP CRYING.
...BUT...
STOP IT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS WHINING ABOUT SOMETHING, I'M FED UP WITH IT ALREADY!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
SLAM

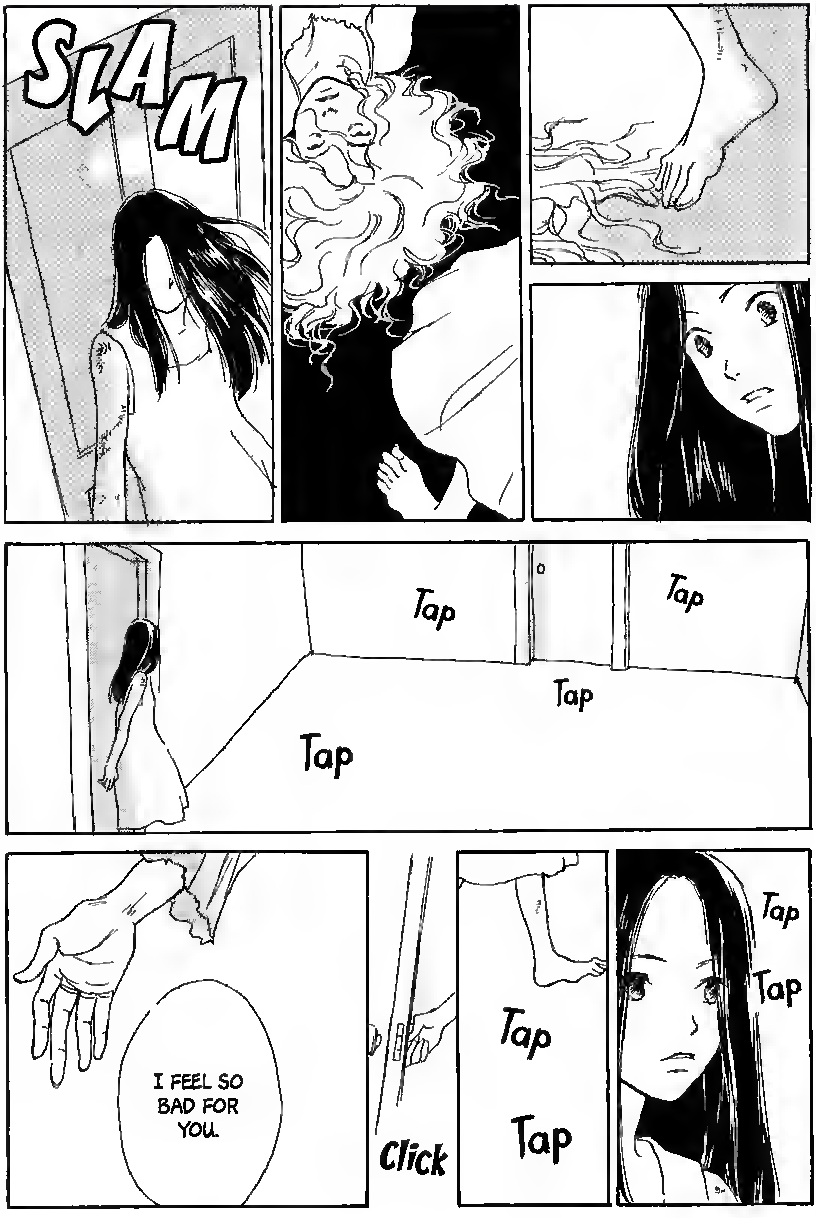

WHENEVER I SEE YOUR SNIVELING FACE, IT PISSES ME OFF.
THAT FACE.
..STOP IT.
HEY, QUIT IT.
SLAP

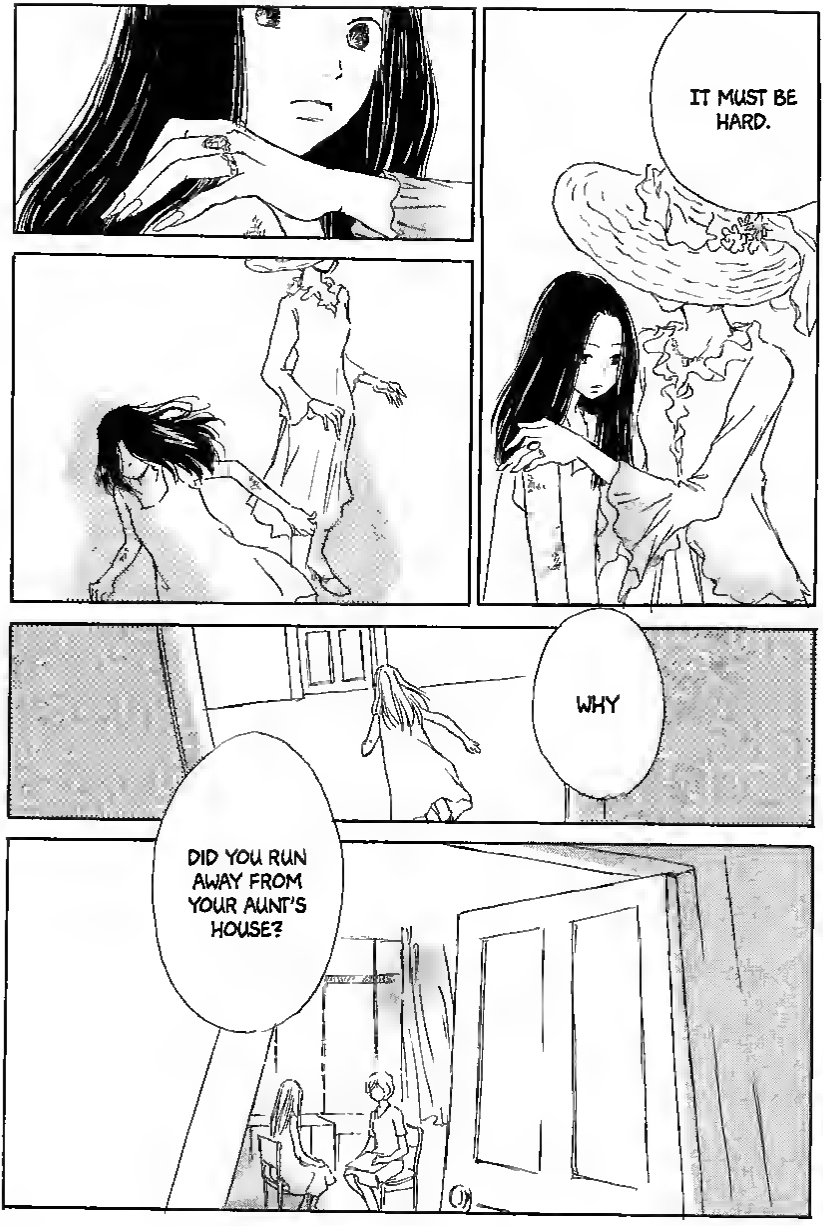

SLAP
DON'T!
PLEASE, STOP IT!
Hic
--ARE...
INSTEAD OF MOMMY?
ARE YOU GOING TO HIT ME NOW

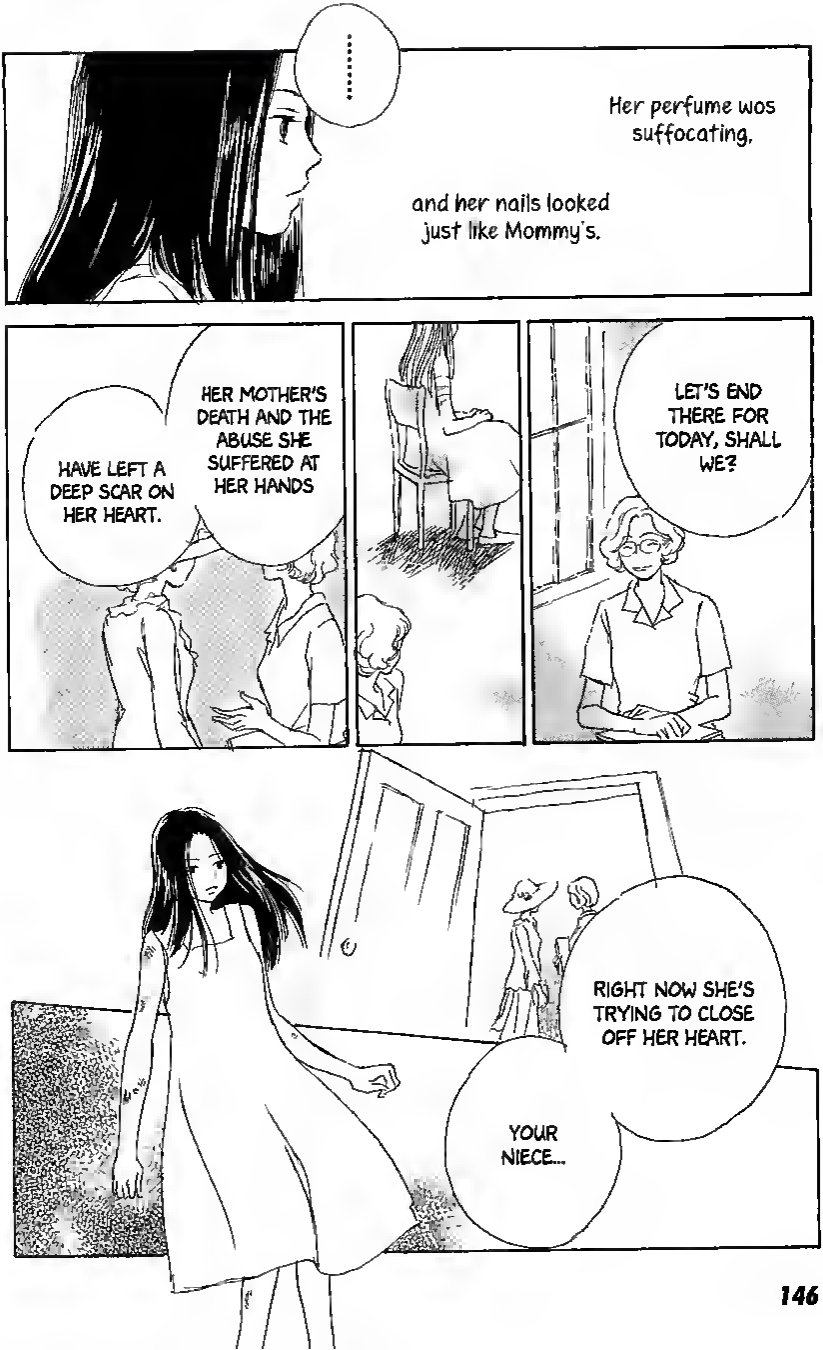

Fwsh

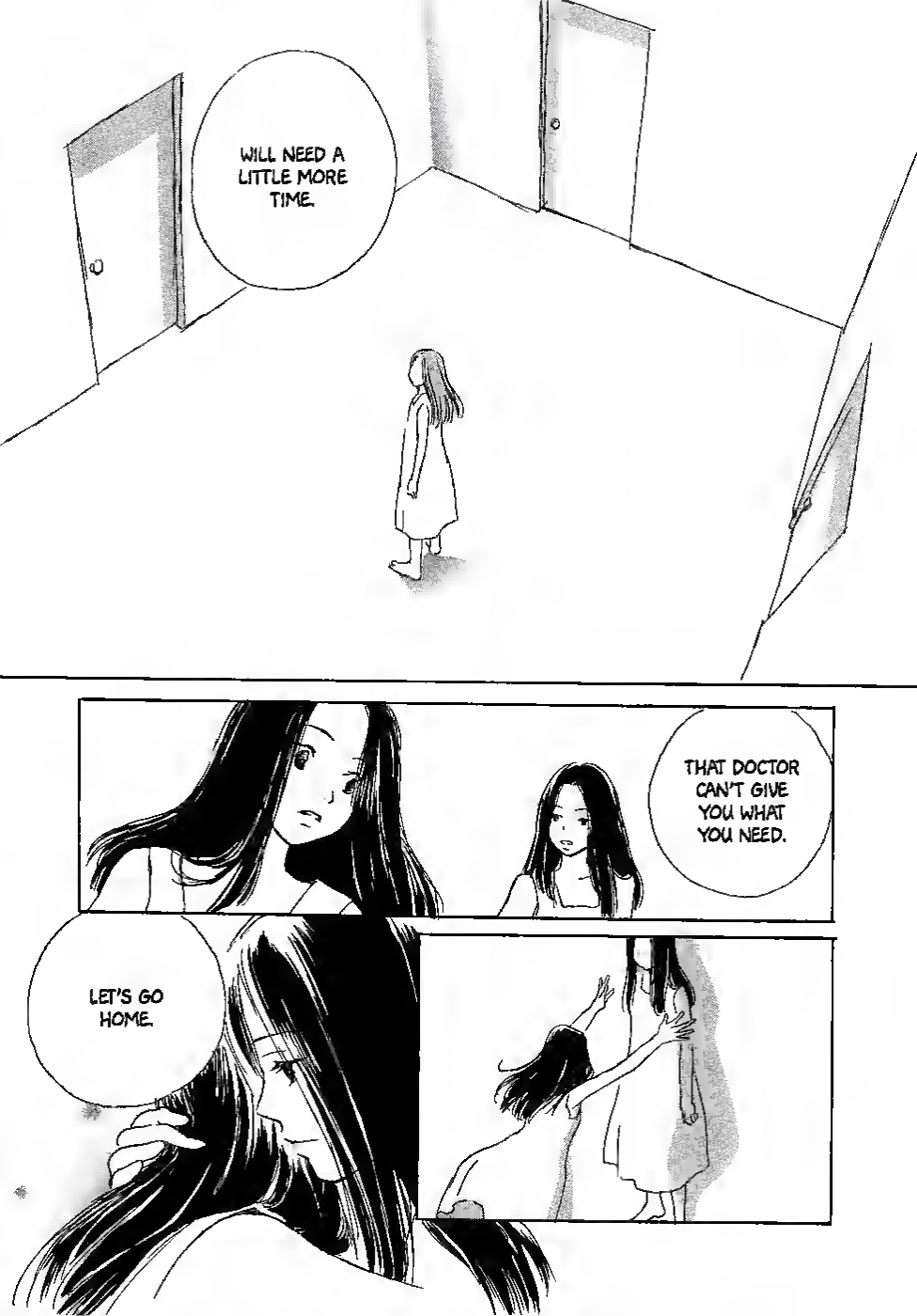

HEY,
WHERE'D YOU GO?
Jolt
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
DON'T HIDE FROM ME.
COME OUT!

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
Click


SLAM
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
I FEEL SO BAD FOR YOU.
Click
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap


IT MUST BE HARD.
WHY
DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM YOUR AUNT'S HOUSE?

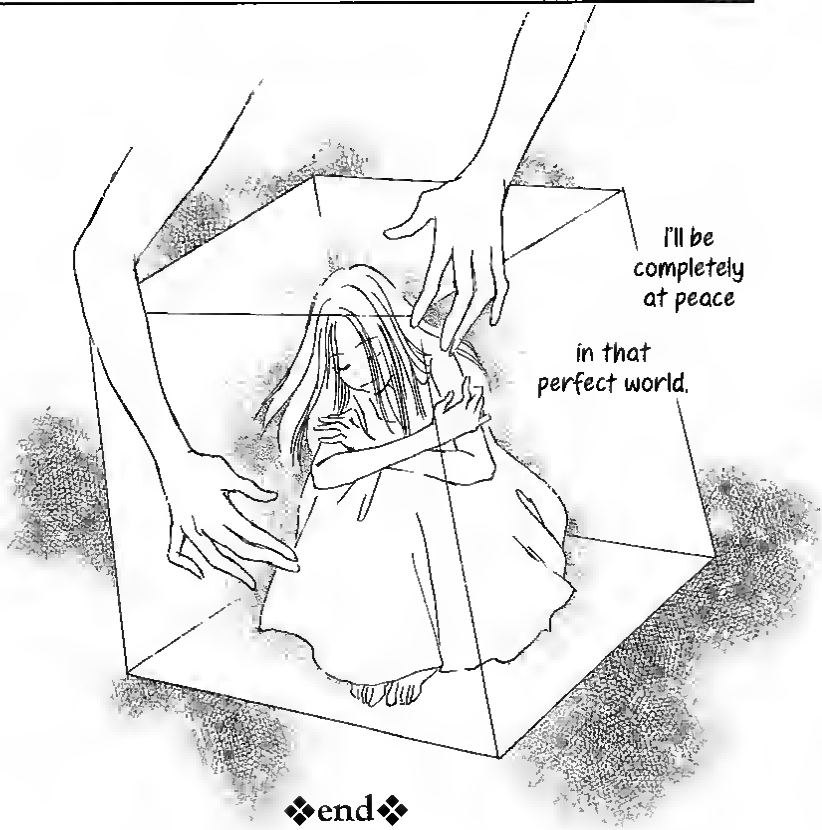

.....
Her perfume wos suffocating,
and her nails looked just like Mommy's.
HER MOTHER'S DEATH AND THE ABUSE SHE SUFFERED AT HER HANDS
HAVE LEFT A DEEP SCAR ON HER HEART.
LET'S END THERE FOR TODAY, SHALL WE?
RIGHT NOW SHE'S TRYING TO CLOSE OFF HER HEART.
YOUR NIECE...


WILL NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME.
THAT DOCTOR CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED.
LET'S GO HOME.

In that warm,

comfortable place,

no one will ever be able to hurt me.



❖end❖

SHIRUBE NO MICHI

BY KONNO KITA

STORY 6

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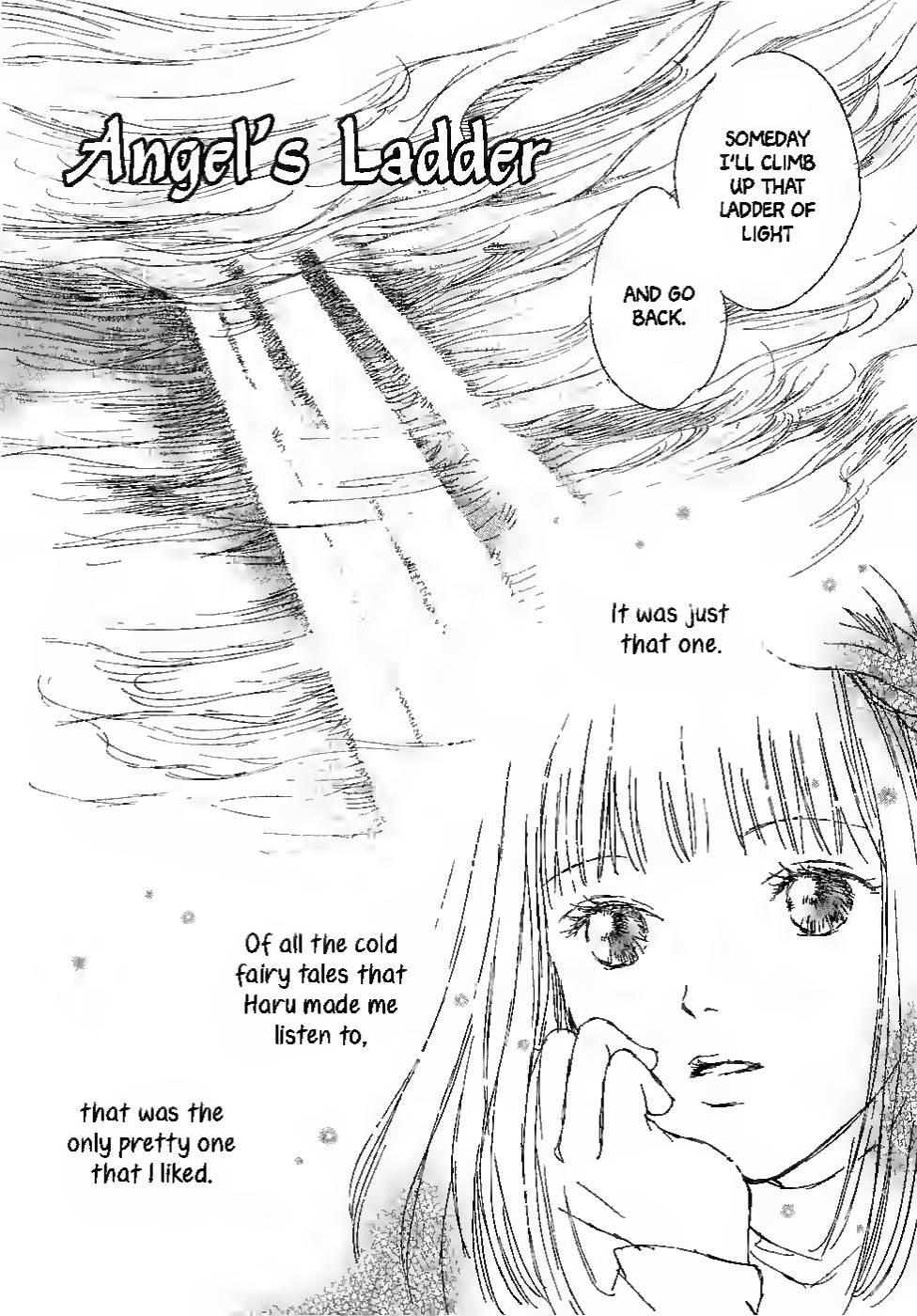
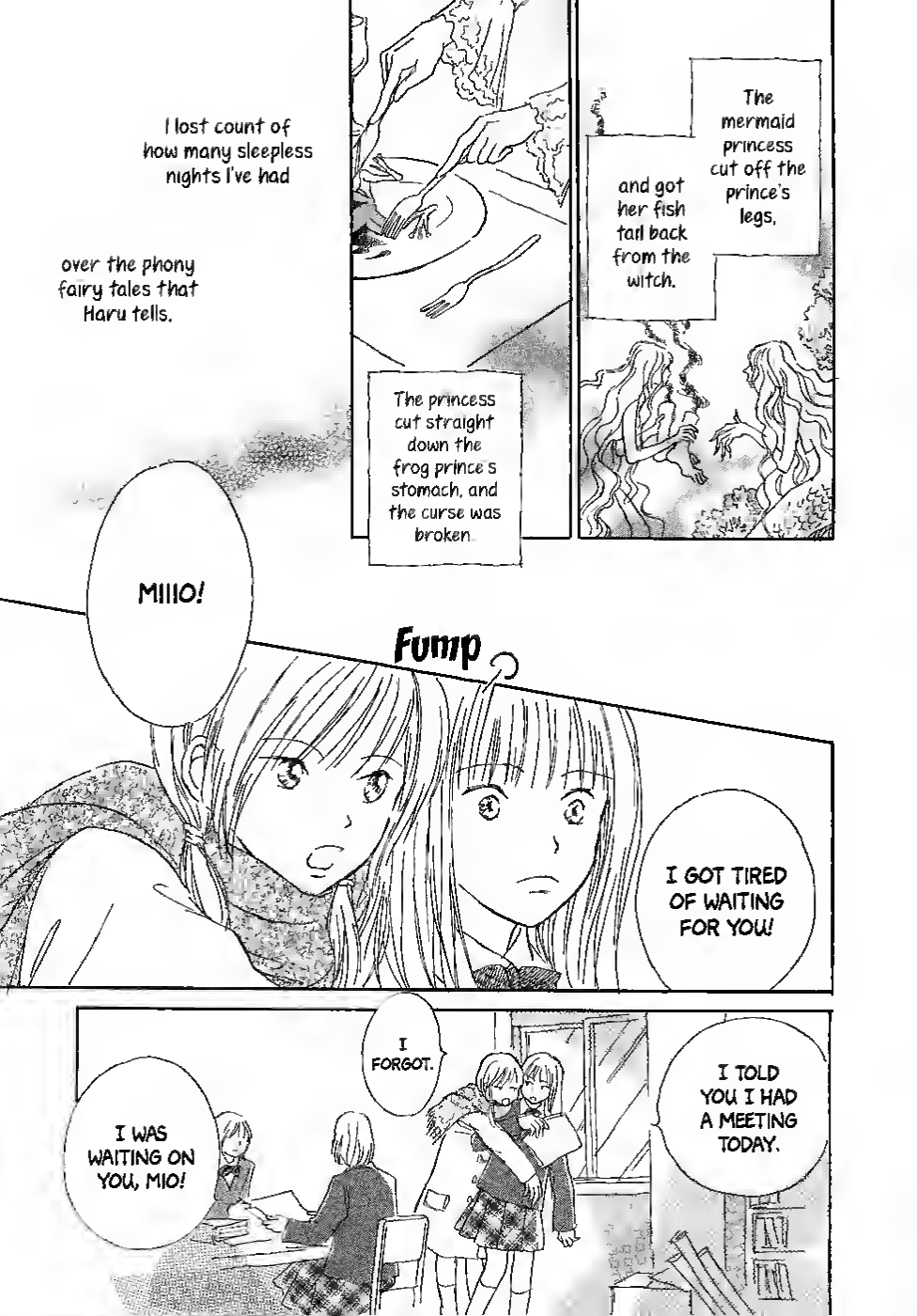
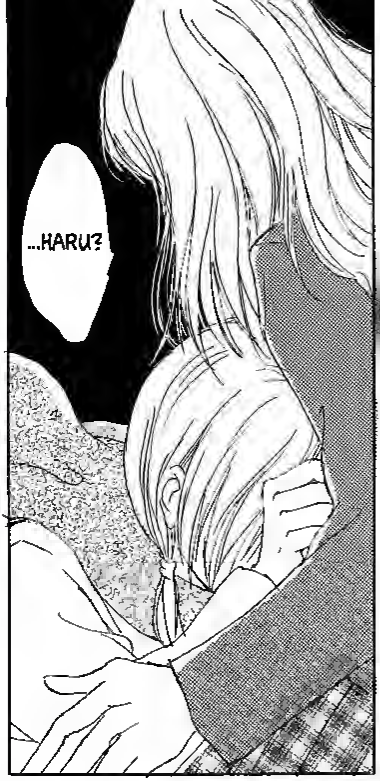
THE CLOUDS ARE SO LOW.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT COULD START SNOWING ANY MINUTE.
LOOK OVER THERE.
SEE?
THERE'S A LADDER COMING DOWN FROM THE SKY.
SOMEONE'S CLIMBING UP IT RIGHT NOW.
HMM.
MIO, YOU WERE TOO LITTLE TO REMEMBER,
BUT I ALSO CAME FROM THERE.
I'M SURE THAT LADDER WILL APPEAR IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN.


Angel's Ladder
SOMEDAY I'LL CLIMB UP THAT LADDER OF LIGHT
AND GO BACK.
It was just that one.
Of all the cold fairy tales that Haru made me listen to,
that was the only pretty one that I liked.


I lost count of how many sleepless nights I've had
over the phony fairy tales that Haru tells.
The princess cut straight down the frog prince's stomach, and the curse was broken.
and got her fish tail back from the witch.
The mermaid princess cut off the prince's legs,
MIIIO!
Fump
I GOT TIRED OF WAITING FOR YOU!
I WAS WAITING ON YOU, MIO!
I FORGOT.
I TOLD YOU I HAD A MEETING TODAY.

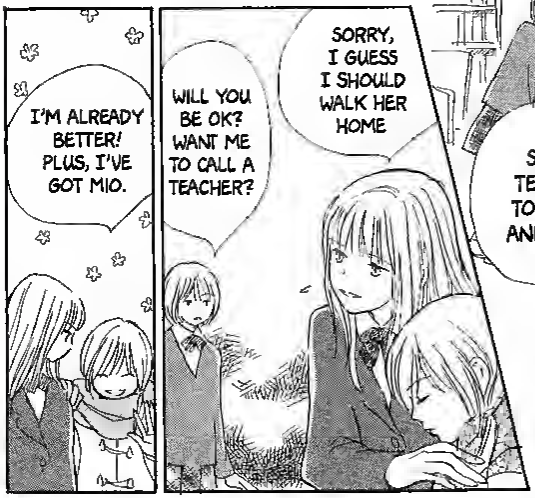

...HARU?

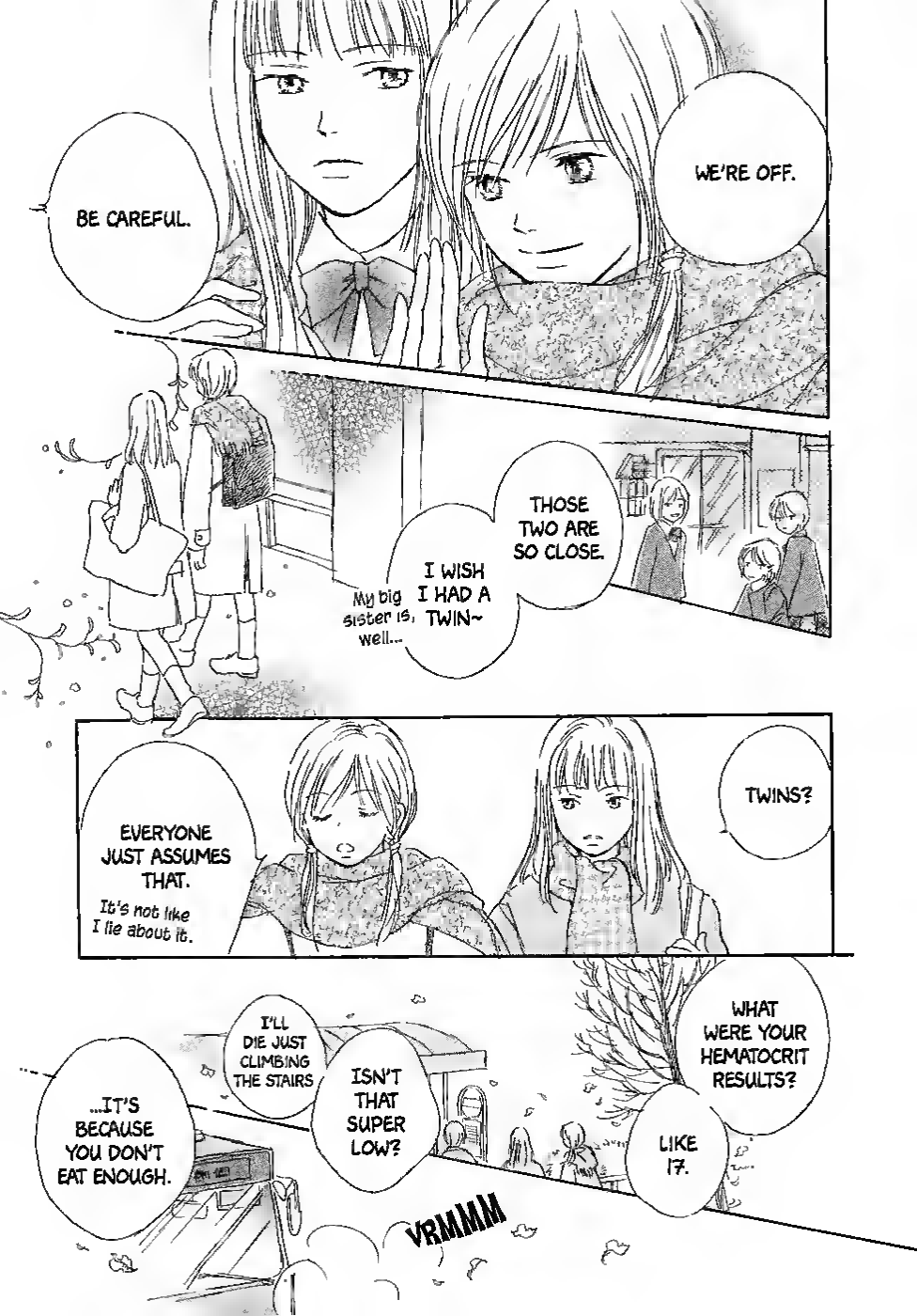
WE CAN HANDLE THE REST. YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME WITH HARU.
BUT ...

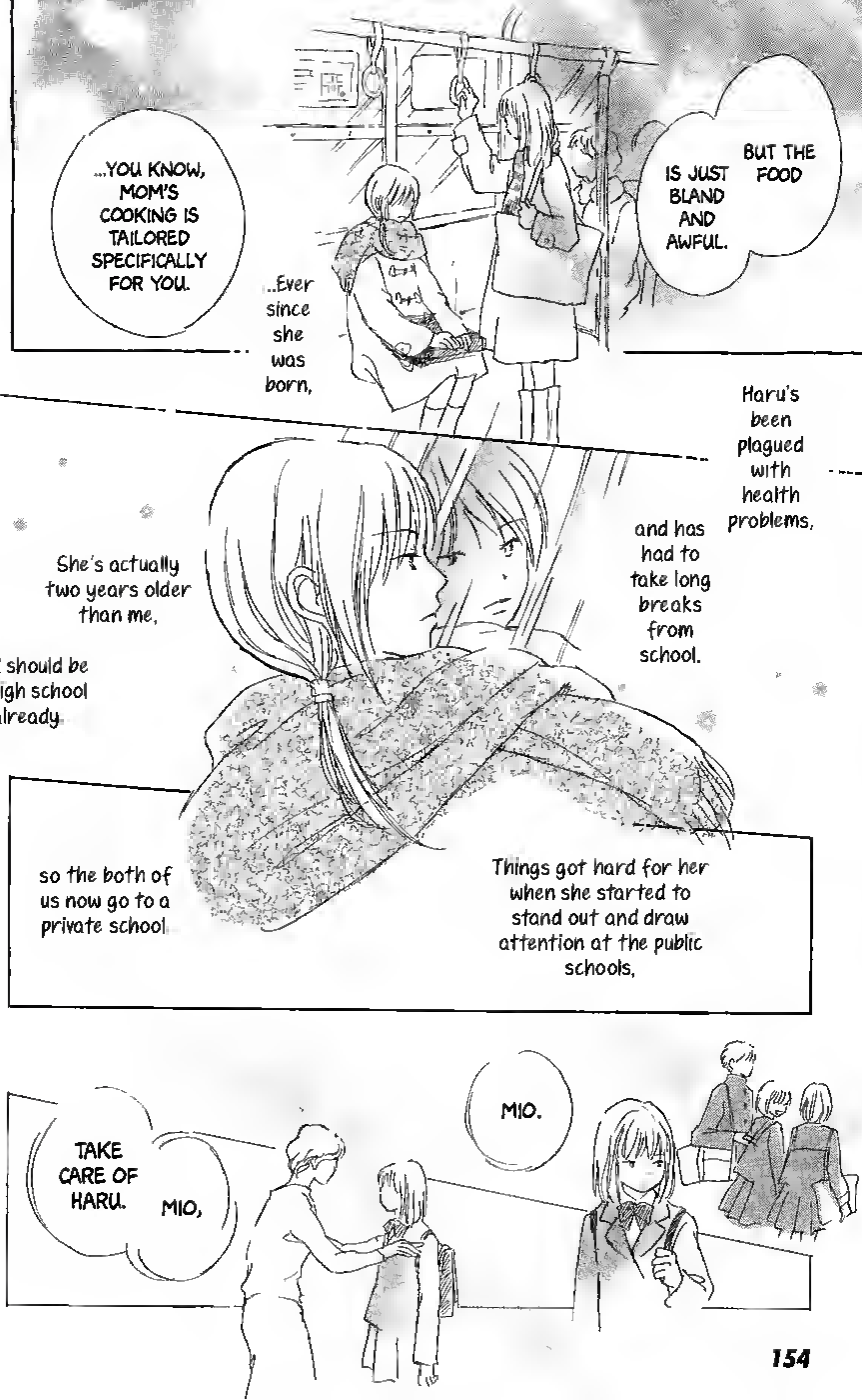
SLIDE

JUST GO ON HOME YOURSELF, HARU.

Hematocrit?
?
...I FEEL WEAK.
MY HEMATO-CRIT'S BEEN LOW LATELY.
SHE TENDS TO GET ANEMIC.

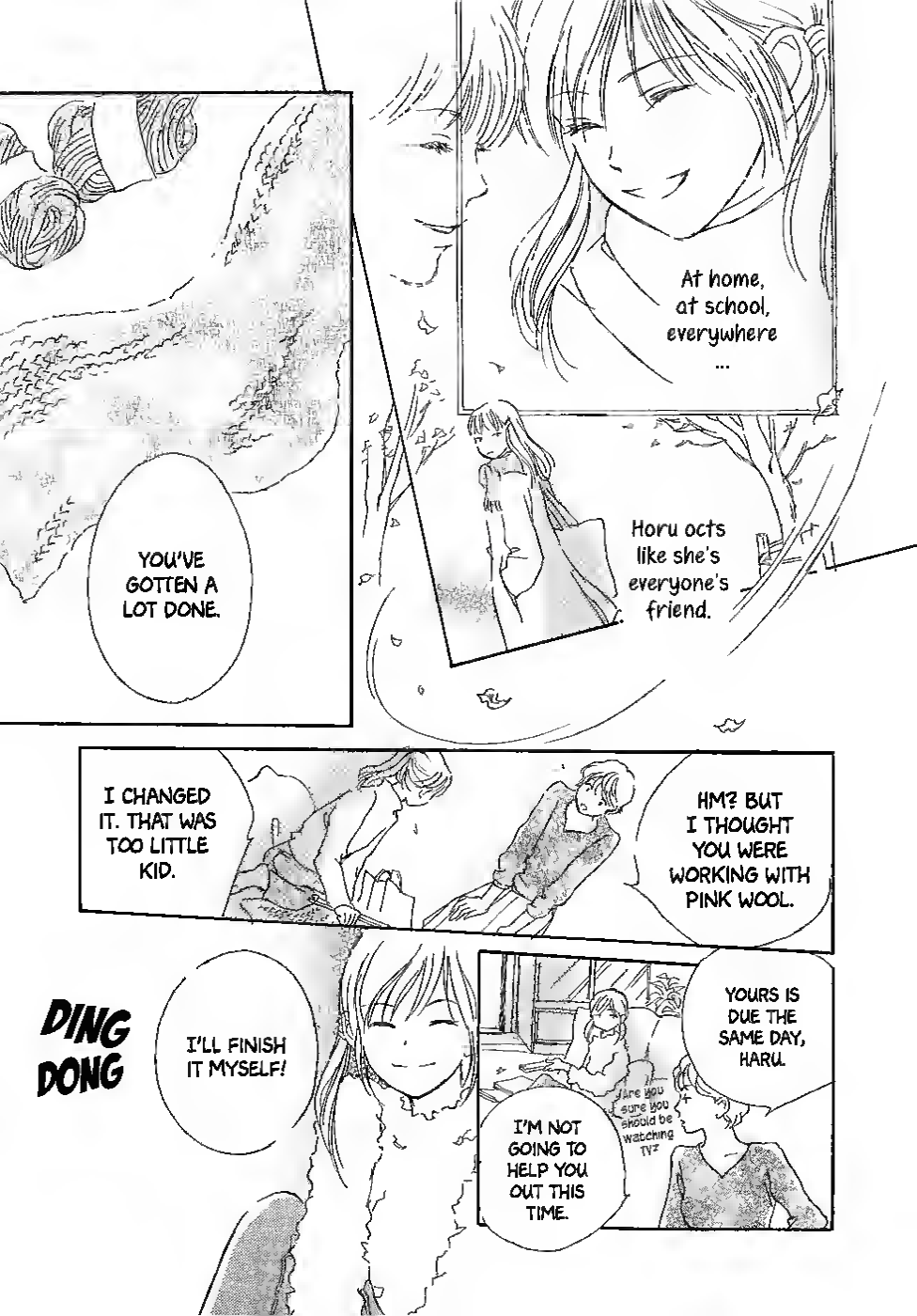

I'M ALREADY BETTER! PLUS, I'VE GOT MIO.
WILL YOU BE OK? WANT ME TO CALL A TEACHER?
SORRY, I GUESS I SHOULD WALK HER HOME


BE CAREFUL.
WE'RE OFF.
My big sister is, well...
I WISH I HAD A TWIN~
THOSE TWO ARE SO CLOSE.
EVERYONE JUST ASSUMES THAT.
It's not like I lie about it.
TWINS?
...IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T EAT ENOUGH.
I'LL DIE JUST CLIMBING THE STAIRS
ISN'T THAT SUPER LOW?
LIKE 17.
WHAT WERE YOUR HEMATOCRIT RESULTS?
VRMMM


...YOU KNOW, MOM'S COOKING IS TAILORED SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU.
BUT THE FOOD IS JUST BLAND AND AWFUL.
...Ever since she was born,
Haru's been plagued with health problems,
and has had to take long breaks from school.
She's actually two years older than me,
and should be in high school already.
so the both of us now go to a private school.
Things got hard for her when she started to stand out and draw attention at the public schools,
TAKE CARE OF HARU.
MIO,
MIO.

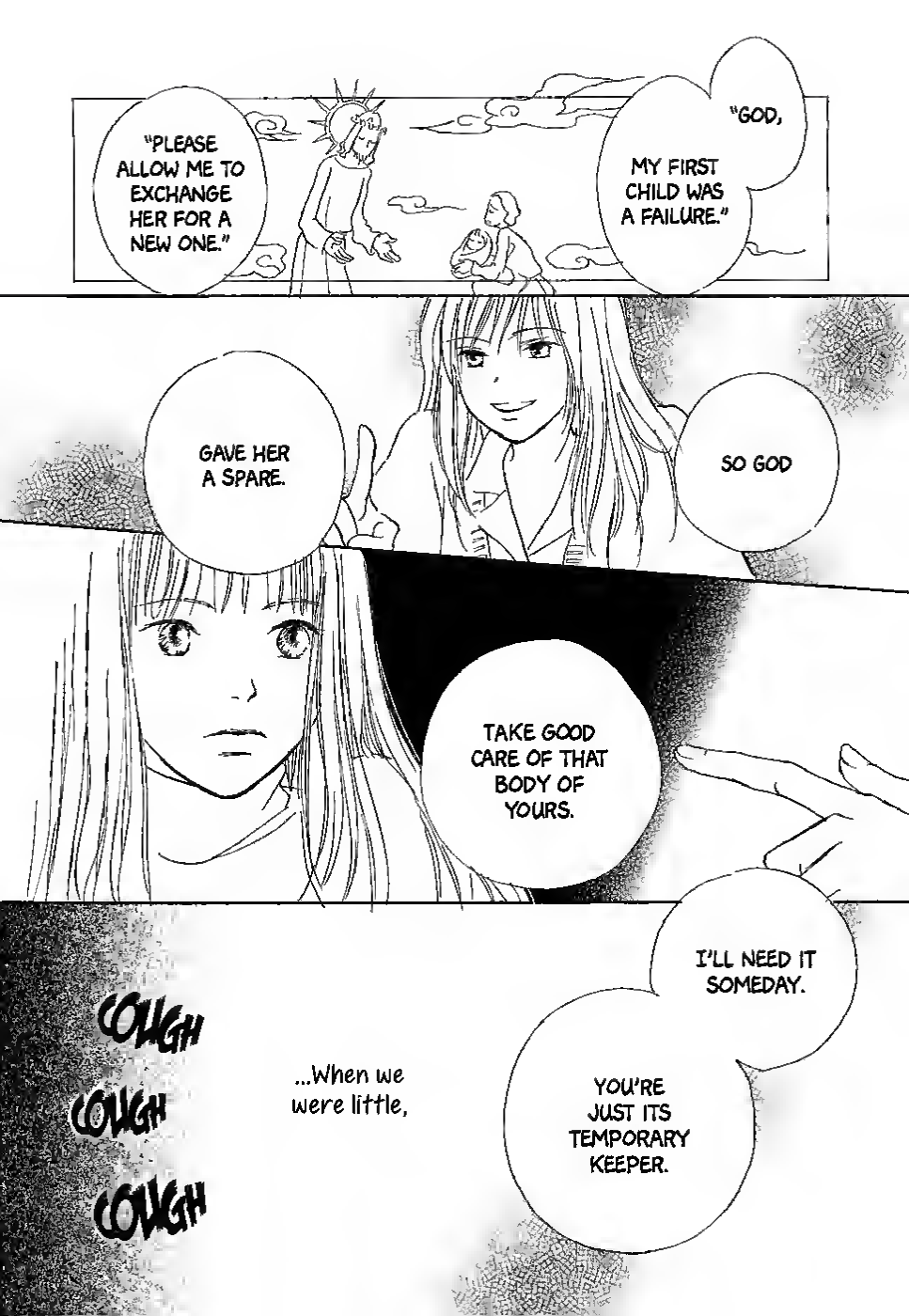
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
I've always,
always,
had ta a take a back seat ta Haru's needs.
Our mom
only has one kidney.
HAVE YOU BEEN WEARING YOUR MASK OUTDOORS?
YES.
COUGH
She's never once worn it.
LIAR.
HARU?
YOU MIGHT HAVE A COLD. THAT'S A BAD COUGH.
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

the other.
Horu hos
becouse of oll the things people do for her.
She's oble to survive
Haru!
YOU CAN READ IT FIRST, HARU.
Lucky~
The new book!
LOOK HERE! IT WAS FINALLY MY TURN TO CHECK IT OUT!
Aha
Aha
HUSH, MIO.
NO WAY, YOU CAN'T LOAN OUT A LIBRARY BOOK~
Think
YOU SURE?
YOU'RE A FAST READER.
YEAH.


At home, at school, everywhere ...
Horu octs like she's everyone's friend.
YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT DONE.
I CHANGED IT. THAT WAS TOO LITTLE KID.
HM? BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE WORKING WITH PINK WOOL.
DING DONG
I'LL FINISH IT MYSELF!
YOURS IS DUE THE SAME DAY, HARU.
Are you sure you should be watching TV?
I'M NOT GOING TO HELP YOU OUT THIS TIME.

COMING!
Tap Tap Tap
OH HELLO, SHUN!
GRAB
HEY, SHUN. BEEN A WHILE.
YO.
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, HARU.
HERE, THIS IS FROM MY MOM.
MY, THANK YOU.
HOW IS YOUR SISTER DOING?
SAME AS ALWAYS.
Shove Shove
Did you grow again?
PUT THIS IN THE FRIDGE.
MIO, THANKS FOR COMING OUT THE OTHER DAY.
OH, SURE!

HMM ...
Take this.
And you brought your friends
IT'S GREAT WHEN PEOPLE SHOW UP TO CHEER AT OUR GAMES.
MPH
MPH
COUGH
COUGH
YOU KNOW, YOU KEEP CATCHING COLDS BECAUSE YOU DON'T WEAR A MASK.
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
...MOM SAID
THAT RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN, SHE RAISED ME UP TO THE SKY.


"GOD, MY FIRST CHILD WAS A FAILURE."
"PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXCHANGE HER FOR A NEW ONE."
SO GOD GAVE HER A SPARE.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THAT BODY OF YOURS.
YOU'RE JUST ITS TEMPORARY KEEPER.
I'LL NEED IT SOMEDAY.
...When we were little,
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

Haru's words would bite at me
COUGH
COUGH
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME MEDS AND GO TO SLEEP?
QUIT WITH THAT CRAP ALREADY.
COUGH
COUGH
MPH
MPH
like hail.
HARU?
TWSH
MPH
...In her left wrist,
SMIRK

Haru has a shunt used for dialysis.
If you touch it,
Mew
Mew
Mew
your fingers pick up the pulse
of her blood flowing through.
HE'S SO CUTE!
Mew
MIO, YOU TAKE A TURN.
No ani-Mals
NOPE.
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A PET?
Think about Haru
Feels like I have internal bleeding
YOU SUCK WITH CATS~
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HOLD THEM.
You angry?
WHOA!
No way, is he growing!?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

They're small and frail, and difficult to handle.
They kind of
remind me of Haru.
MIO.
Glance
Why'd you call me out here?
Whisper

Every naw and then
...THEN GO TO THE INFIRMARY.
I DON'T WANT TO.
BUT ...
NO WAY!
SO I DON'T HAVE ANY ON ME. ASK SOMEONE ELSE...
MINE JUST FINISHED,
that I have ta pratect
I get hit with a wave af feeling—
this weak and insubstantial girl.
as if Haru can sense thase feelings af mine,
HOW ARE YOU? DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?
Infirmary
But,

she'll turn them around with a few quick words.
DON'T TELL THE OLD LADY ABOUT THIS.
HUH? BUT MOM WORRIES ABOUT YOU...
SHE'D TRY TO MAKE IT INTO SOME BIG DEAL, HAVE A PARTY.
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.

It wasn't really early or late for a girl.

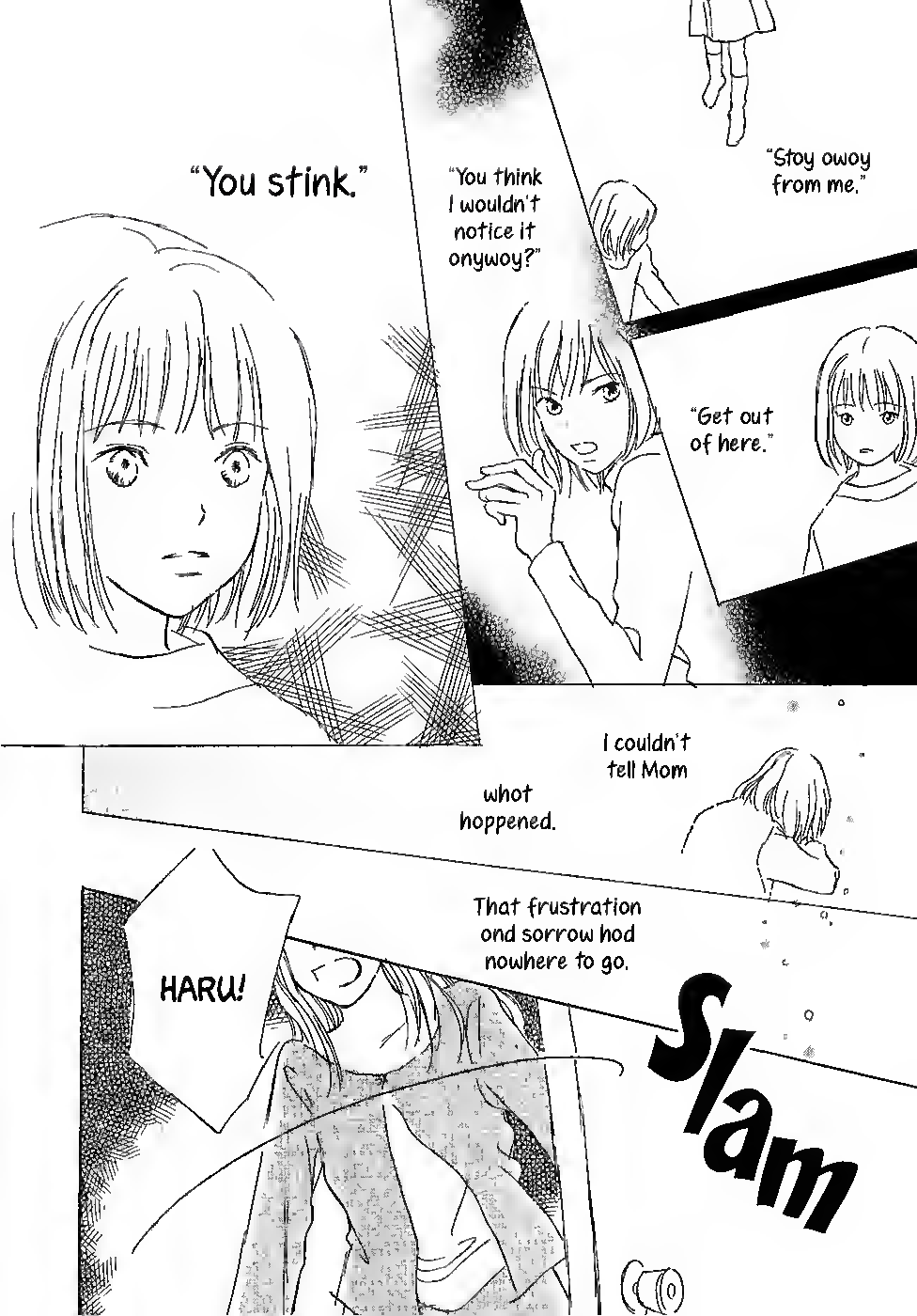
I got my first period at the end of 6th grade.

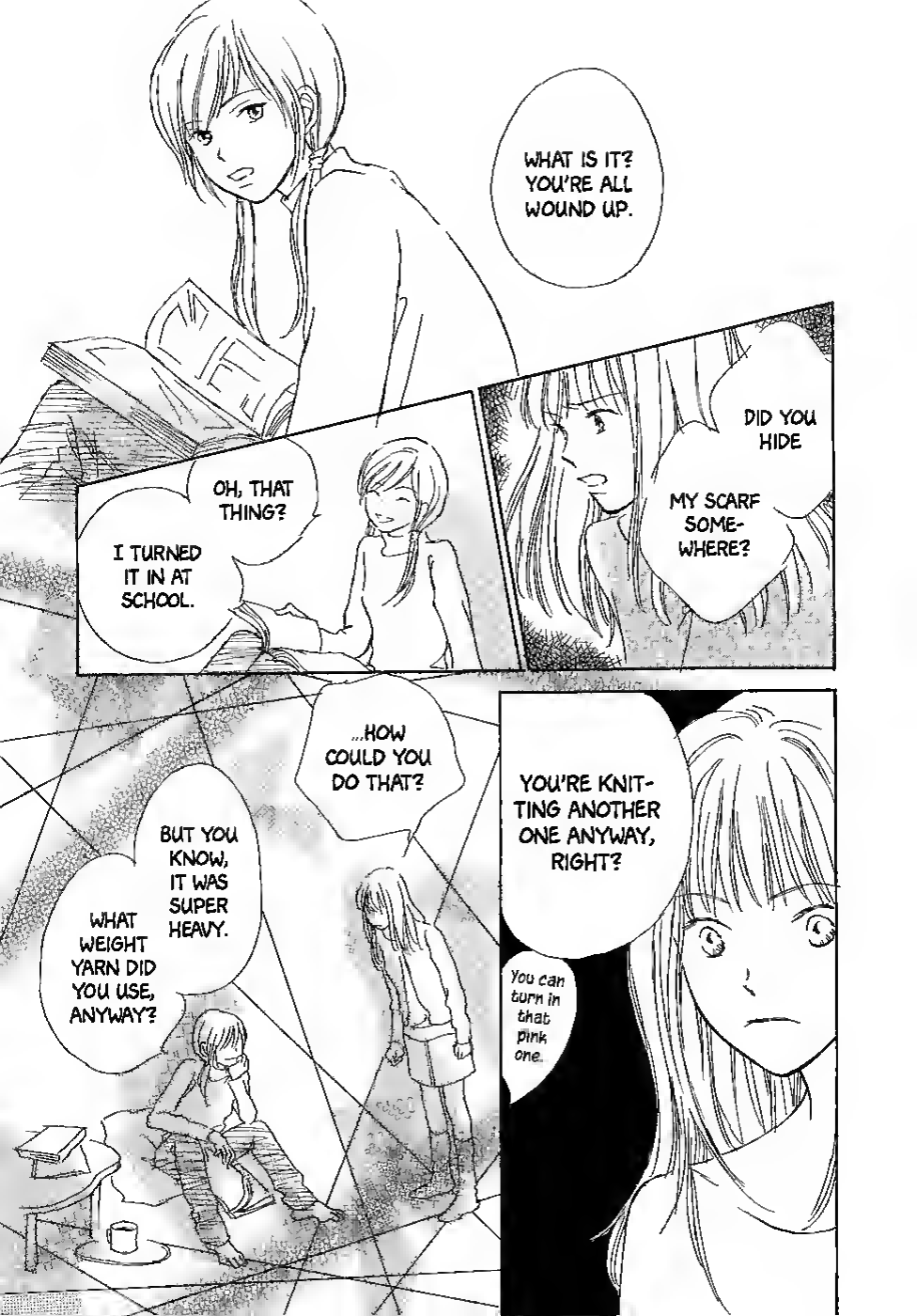
"Dan't, Mam."

"Dan't."

"Haw about I make yaur favarite faad tanight, Mia?"

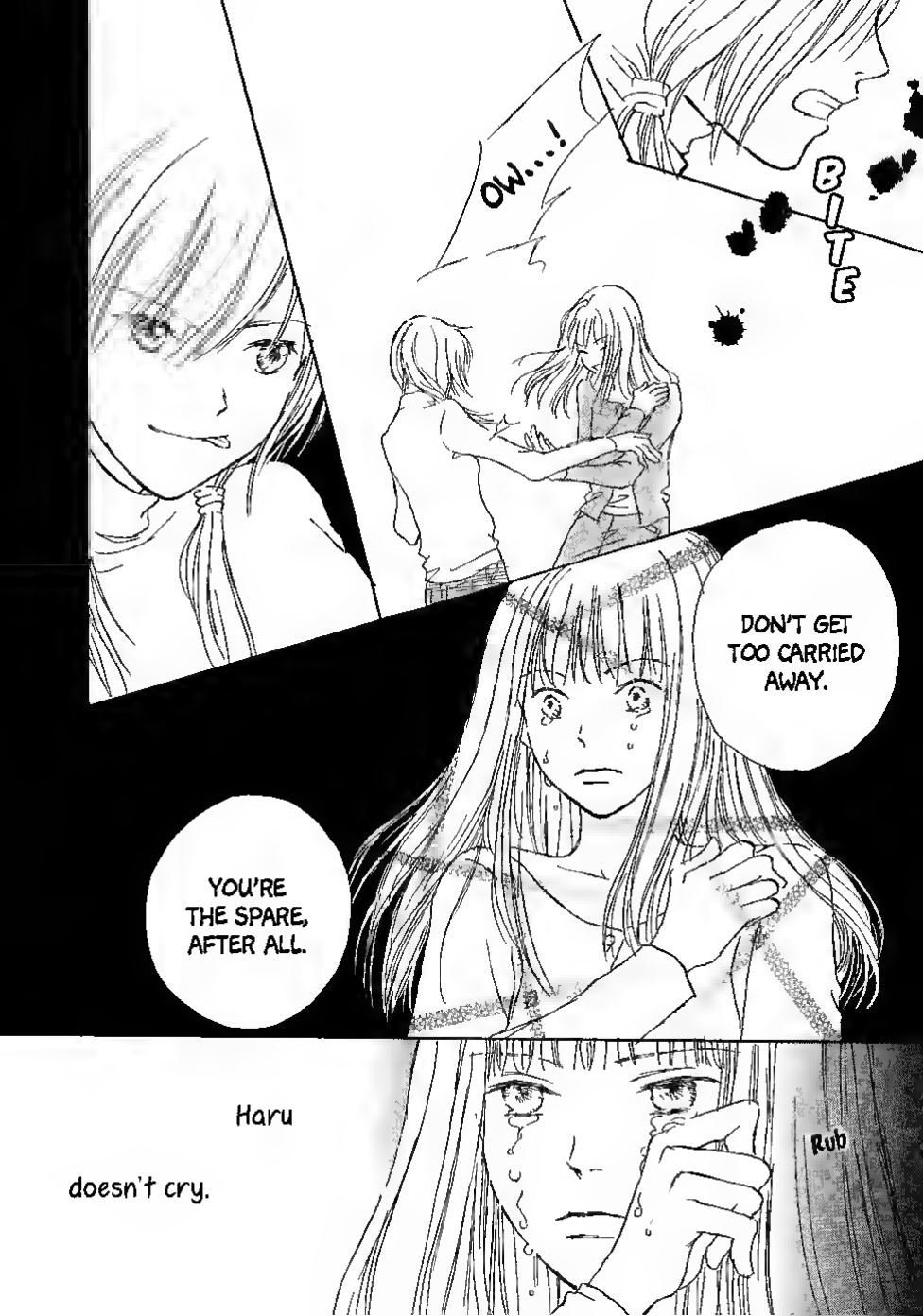
"I dan't want Haru ta knaw."


"You stink."
"You think I wouldn't notice it onywoy?"
"Stoy owoy from me."
"Get out of here."
I couldn't tell Mom whot hoppened.
That frustration ond sorrow hod nowhere to go.
HARU!
Slam


WHAT IS IT? YOU'RE ALL WOUND UP.
DID YOU HIDE MY SCARF SOME-WHERE?
OH, THAT THING?
I TURNED IT IN AT SCHOOL.
YOU'RE KNIT-TING ANOTHER ONE ANYWAY, RIGHT?
You can turn in that pink one.
...HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?
BUT YOU KNOW, IT WAS SUPER HEAVY.
WHAT WEIGHT YARN DID YOU USE, ANYWAY?

PUTTING YOUR HEART INTO IT IS ONE THING,
HA HA HA BUT LAY IT ON TOO THICK AND HE'LL WIND UP WITH SORE SHOULDERS.
Slap
IF YOU GAVE THAT TO HIM, IT'D JUST ANNOY HIM.
YOU'RE UGLY, HARU!
SO UGLY!
I can't.
GOD GAVE YOU THAT BODY
TO MATCH YOUR UGLY HEART.
I can't.
Just that one thing...
HARU...

I WISH YOU WOULD JUST DIE!
OH!
Smile
HARU?

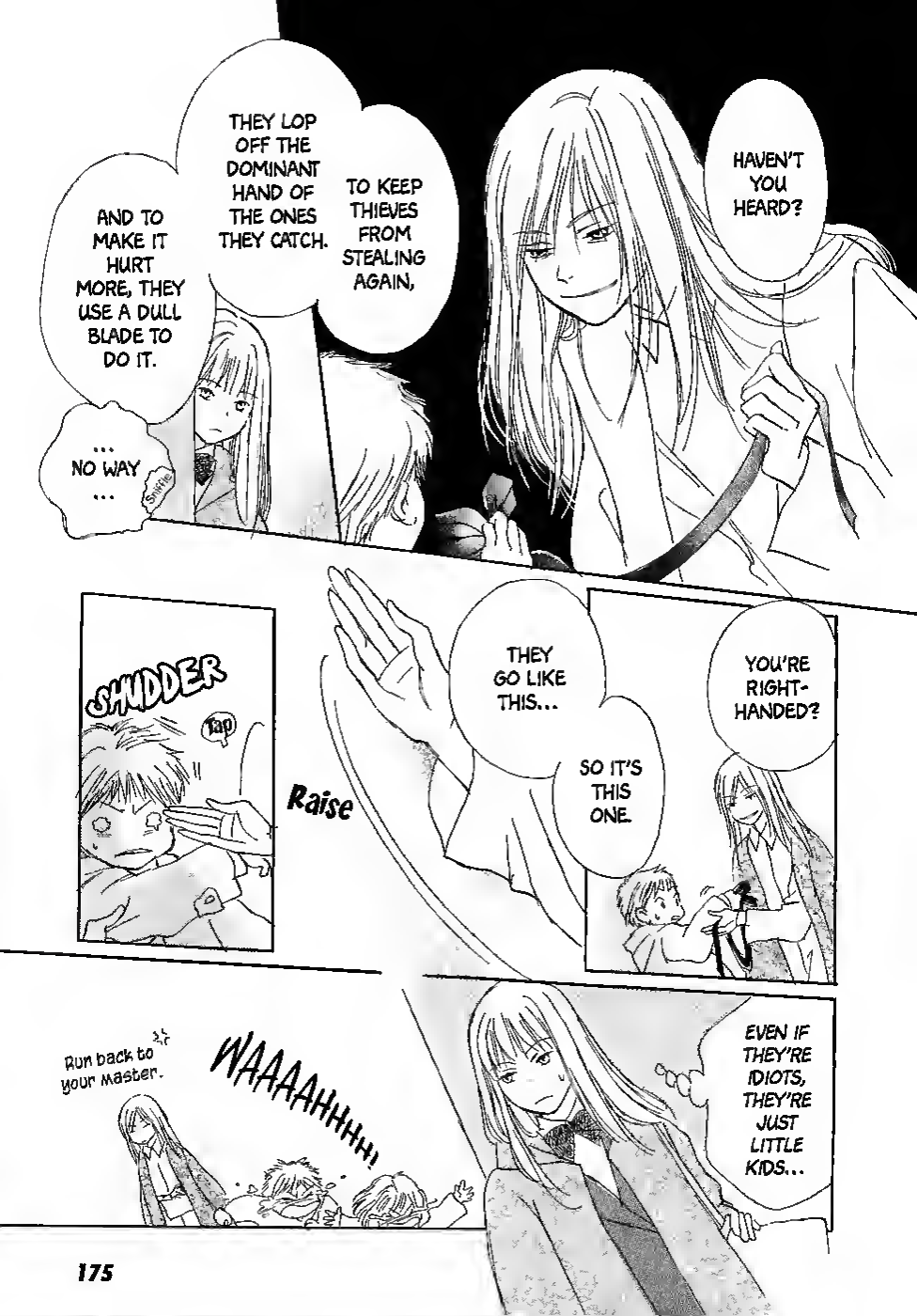

OW...!
BITE
DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY.
YOU'RE THE SPARE, AFTER ALL.
Haru
doesn't cry.
Rub

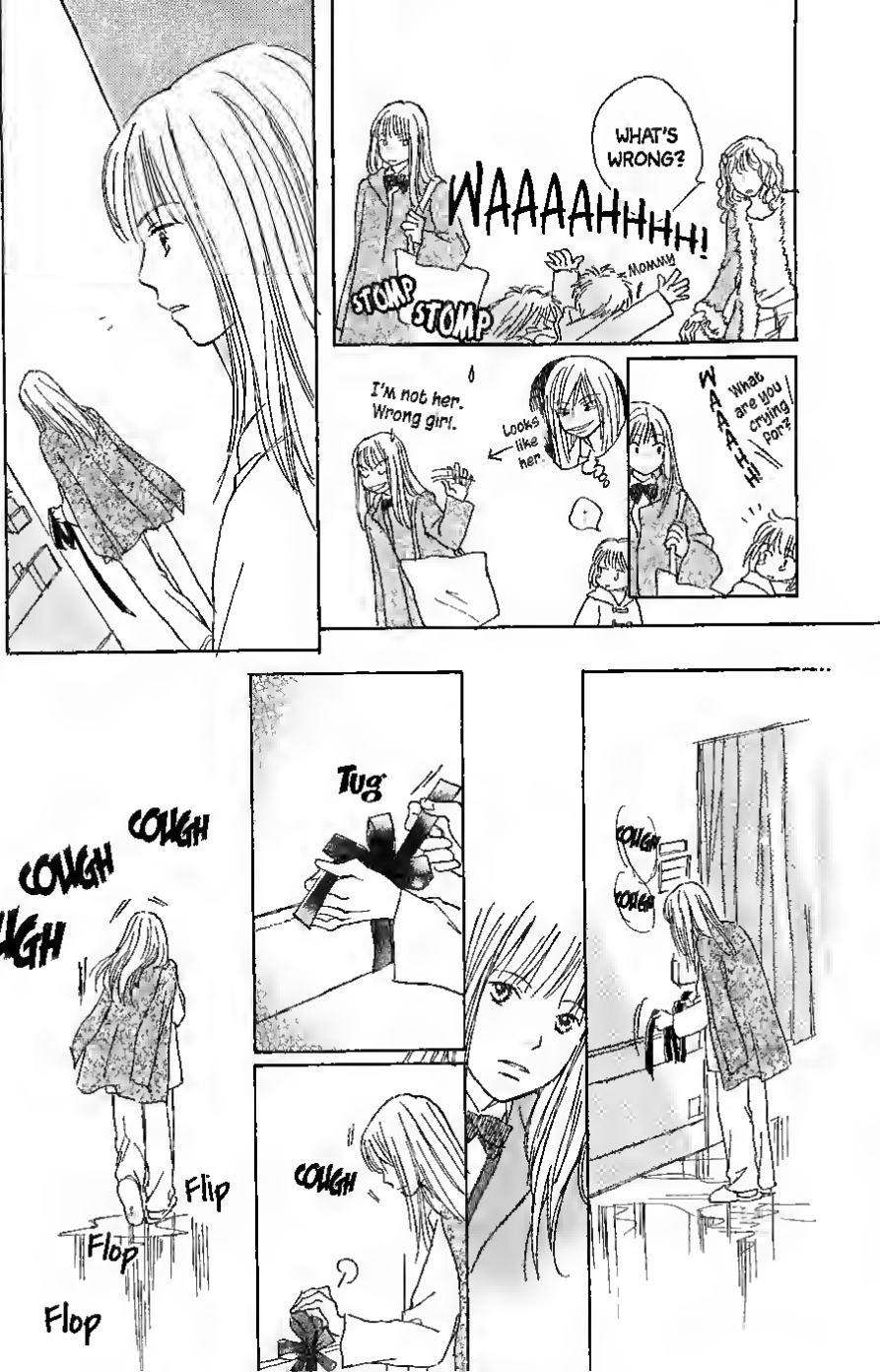
Even when her eyes look transparent as glass,
and fever clouds her visian,
she never cries.
That night
I had a dream.
A vine sprauted
fram where Haru
had bitten me.

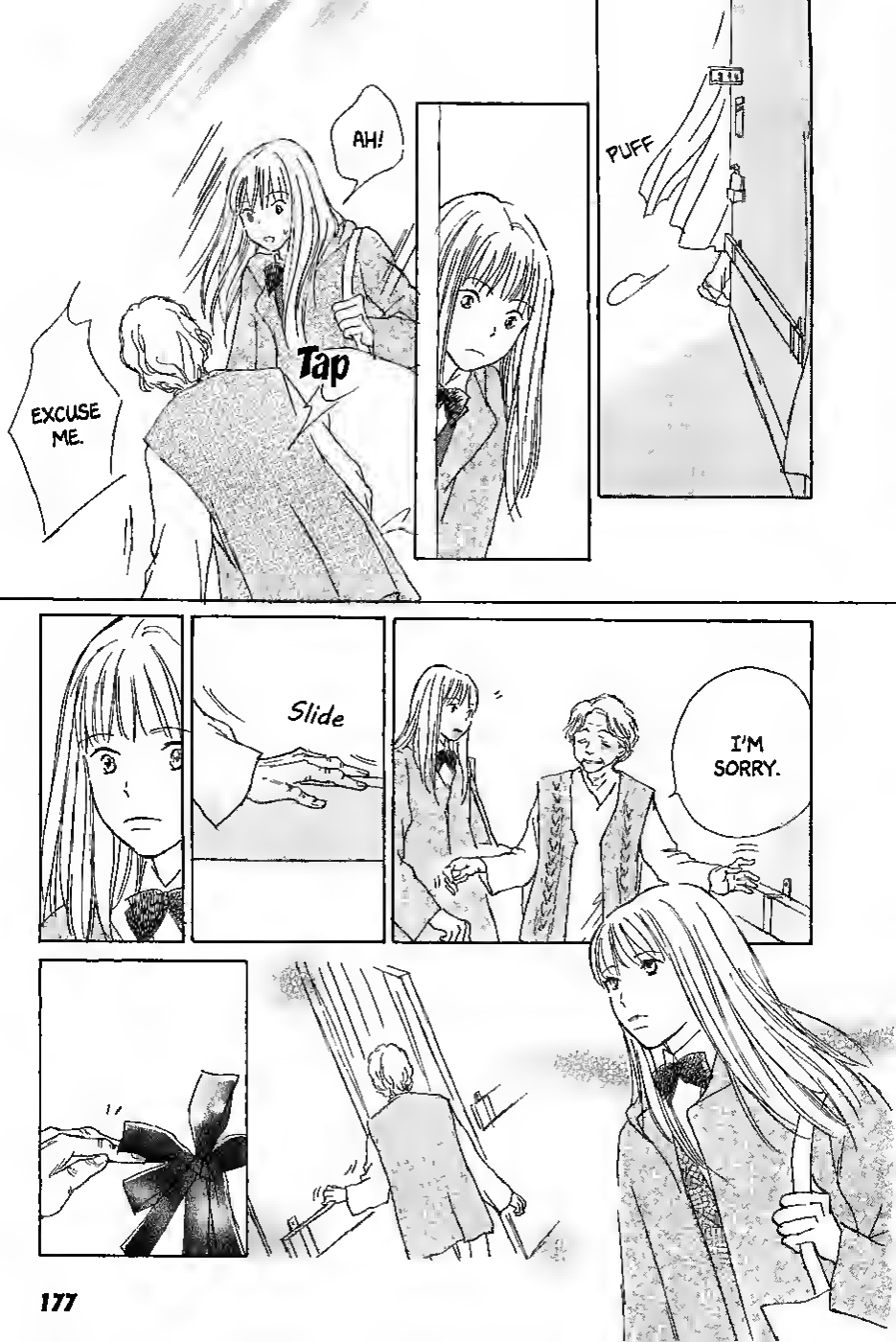
and I tore them off
and stomped on them.
Flowers sprouted down its length,
Stomped and stomped.
MIO.
MIO, WAKE UP.

Far Haru,
Haru wound up in the hospital.
it was normal far even a cald
to knock her out far a manth.
Ding
AHAHAHAHA
THAT'S MIIINE!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOP!
STOMP
I Pound it First!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
Don't Fool around in the hospital
STUPID KIDS.

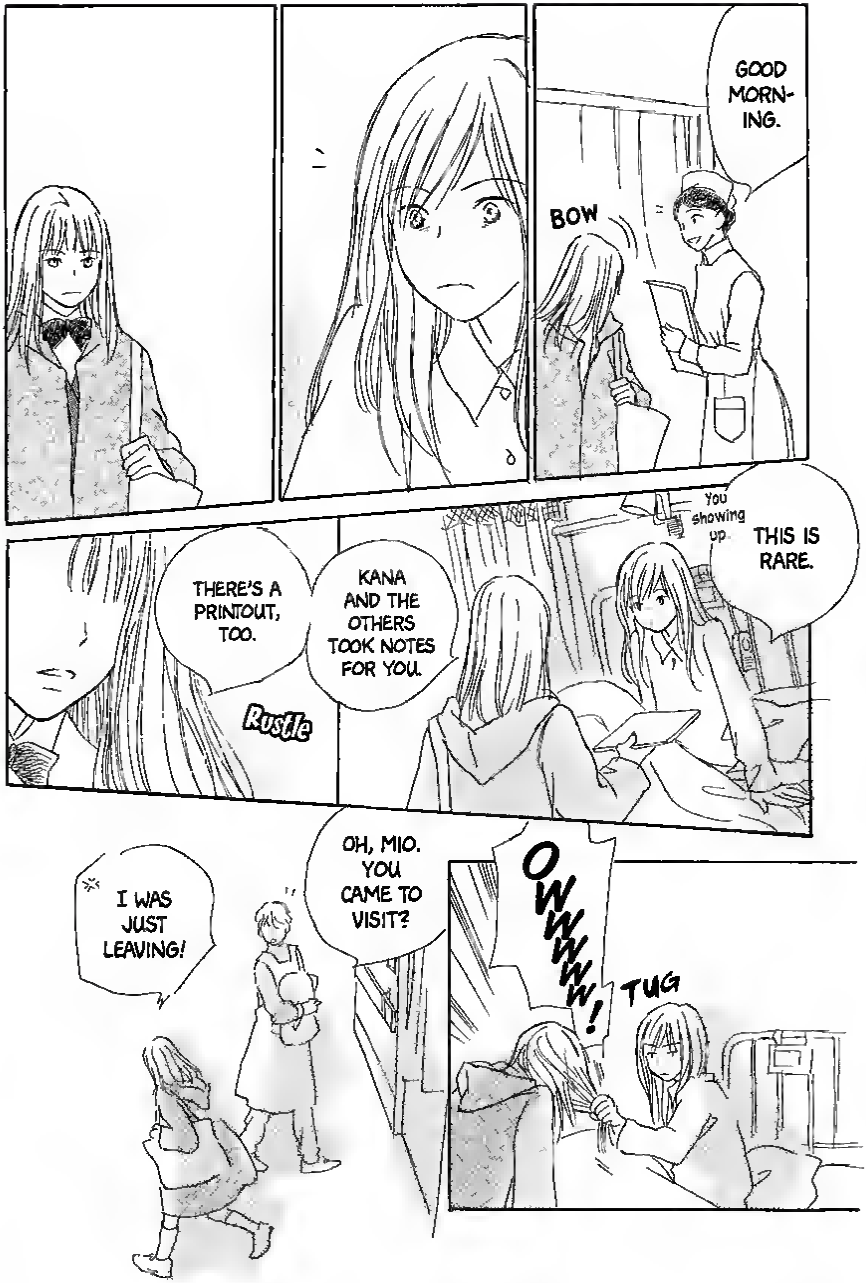
Thud
WAH!
STUPID BROTHER!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
OH.
... HMM, SO YOU'RE THE CULPRIT?
GRAB
GIVE THAT TO ME.
AH!
BUT IT'S NOT YOURS EITHER!
Yeah!
SO IT DOESN'T BELONG TO EITHER OF YOU.
NO WAY! I FOUND IT!
NO, IT'S MINE! MINE!


HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
TO KEEP THIEVES FROM STEALING AGAIN,
THEY LOP OFF THE DOMINANT HAND OF THE ONES THEY CATCH.
AND TO MAKE IT HURT MORE, THEY USE A DULL BLADE TO DO IT.
... NO WAY ...
Shuffle
YOU'RE RIGHT-HANDED?
THEY GO LIKE THIS...
SO IT'S THIS ONE.
Raise
SHUDDER
Tap
EVEN IF THEY'RE IDIOTS, THEY'RE JUST LITTLE KIDS...
Run back to your Master.
WAAAAHHHH!


WHAT'S WRONG?
WAAAAHHHH!
MOMMY
STOMP STOMP
I'm not her. Wrong girl.
Looks like her
What are you crying for?
WAAAAH
Tug
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
Flip
Flop
Flop

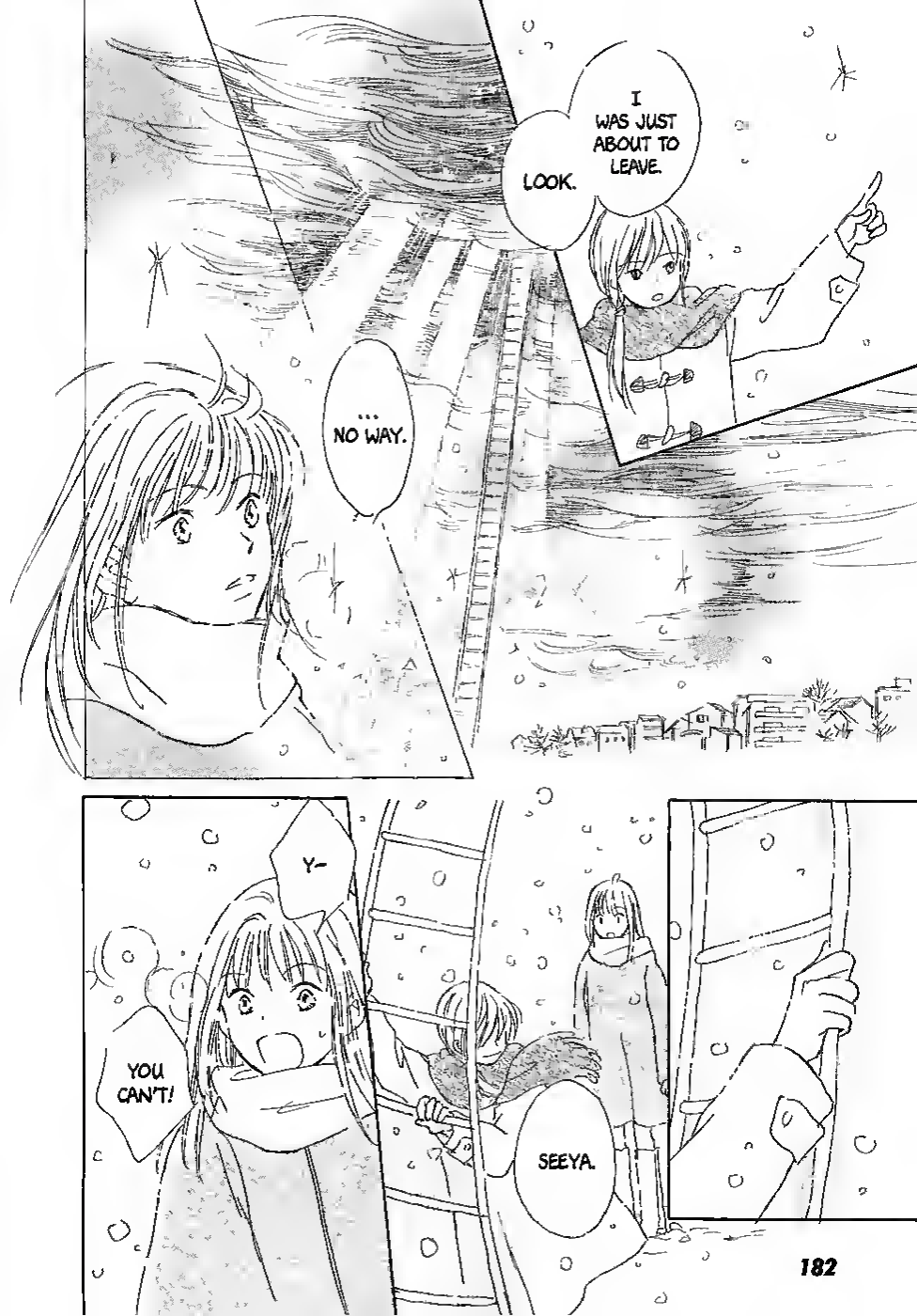

AH!
PUFF
Tap
EXCUSE ME.
Slide
I'M SORRY.

I WANT TO WASH MY HAIR.
YOU MUSTN'T.
COUGH
NO CAN DO.
AT LEAST LET ME DRY IT OFF.
COUGH
COUGH
YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT UNTIL YOUR FEVER DROPS.
COUGH
COUGH


GOOD MORN-ING.
BOW
THIS IS RARE.
you showing up
KANA AND THE OTHERS TOOK NOTES FOR YOU.
THERE'S A PRINTOUT, TOO.
Rustle
OH, MIO. YOU CAME TO VISIT?
I WAS JUST LEAVING!
OWWWW!
TUG

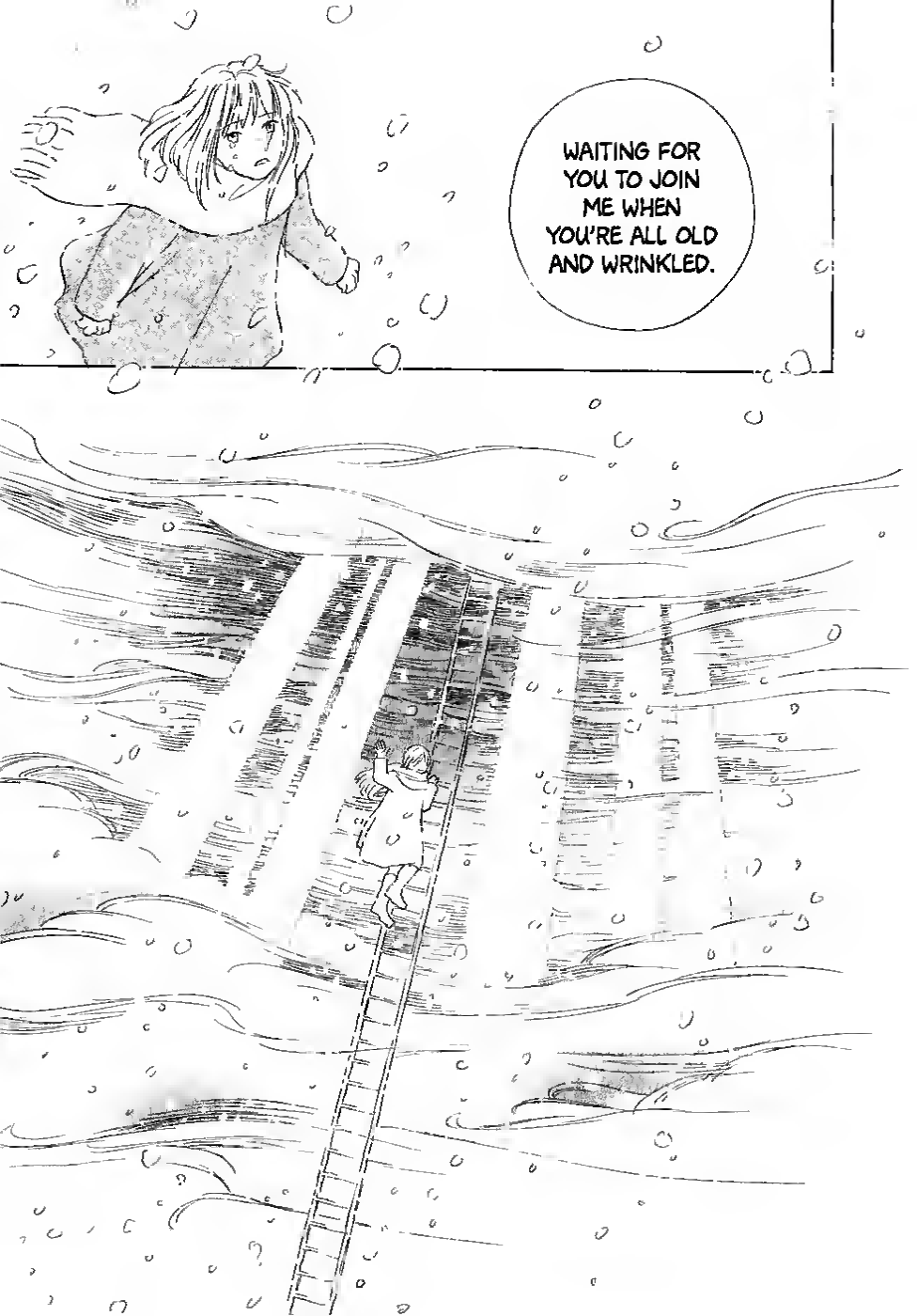
That was the last time
I went ta see Haru at the haspital...
seeya.
Bye.

HARU.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE!?
I'M GOING HOME.
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO SELFISH...
MOM MUST BE WORRIED SICK!
DID YOU SNEAK OUT OF THE HOSPITAL?

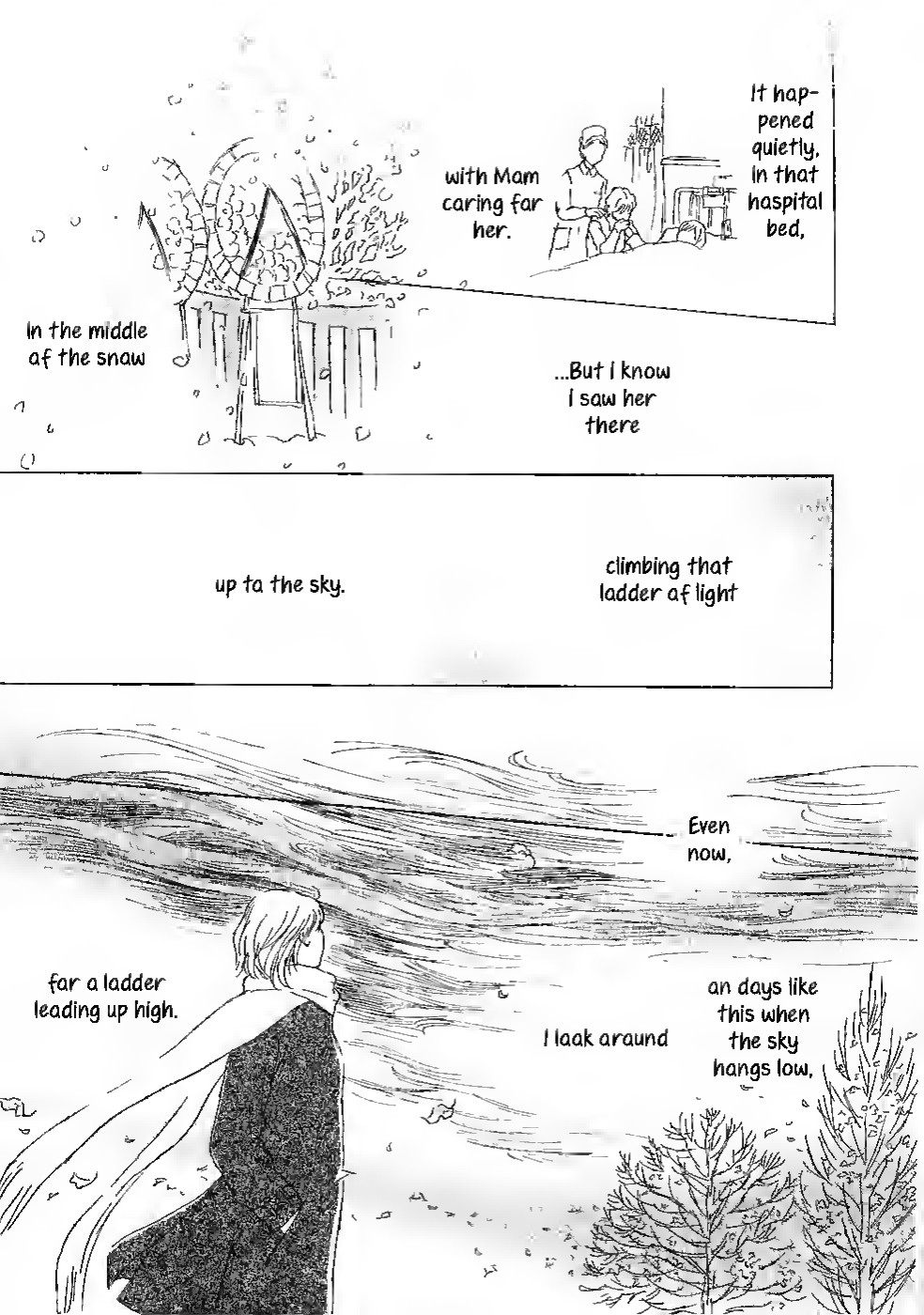

LOOK.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE.
...
NO WAY.
Y-
YOU CAN'T!
SEEYA.

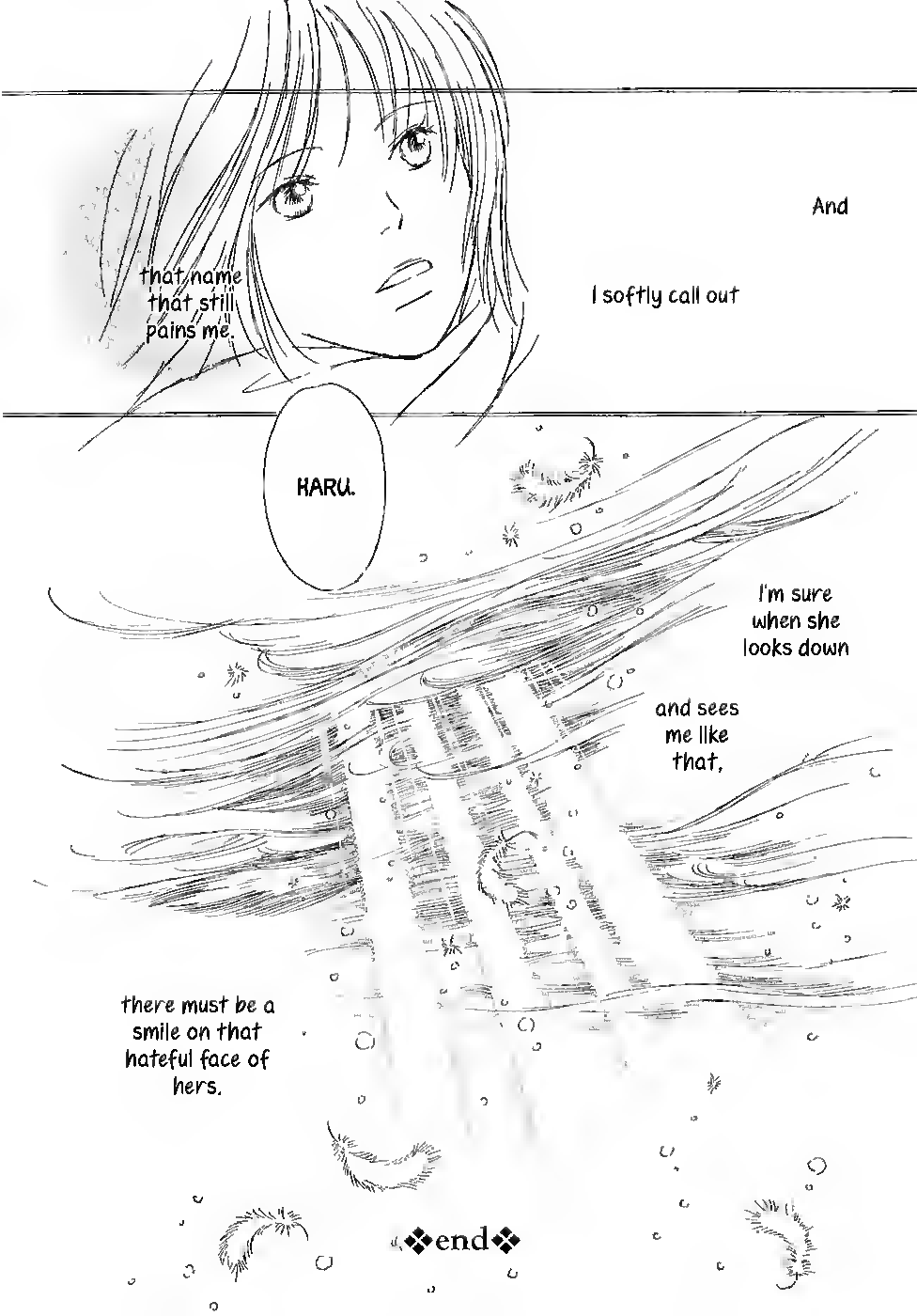
DON'T!
YOU CAN'T! I WON'T LET YOU GO!
HARU!
YOU'RE THE DEVIL!
YOU CAN'T BE AN ANGEL!
NO WAY I'LL LET YOU GO!
I WON'T LET YOU!

YOU IDIOT.
STUPID MIO.
THIS IS THE ONE THING I GET.
TO GO WHILE I'M YOUNG AND PRETTY.
SO I'LL BE UP THERE WAITING.


WAITING FOR YOU TO JOIN ME WHEN YOU'RE ALL OLD AND WRINKLED.

Haru passed away.


It happened quietly, in that haspital bed,
with Mam caring far her.
...But I know I saw her there
In the middle af the snaw
climbing that ladder af light
up ta the sky.
Even now,
an days like this when the sky hangs low,
I laak araund
far a ladder leading up high.


that name that still pains me.
And
I softly call out
HARU.
I'm sure when she looks down
and sees me like that,
there must be a smile on that hateful face of hers.
❖end❖

Summer School

WHAT!?
You guys are too heavy.
I KNEW IT...
TEACHER~ WE'RE NOT MOVING FORWARD AT ALL~~
THAT'S ODD...
Yay!
YOU'RE NOT HUNGRY?
Yay!
DUN
I feel clammy...
It's heavy!
Zzz
Snore
Snore
Zzz
DUN
HURRY UP AND TAKE IT ...
YOU PICKED UP THE CARGO. ♫
Nice job today.
❖end❖

初出

知る辺の道 ―――― スピカ vol 2（2004年1月）
オランジュリー幻想 ―― Webスピカ 2004年12月号
天女 ―――― ミステリービィストリート 2003年10月号
きつねの火 ―――― 同人誌（2001年8月）
匣〜はこ〜 ―――― ミステリービィストリート 2003年8月号
天使のはしご ―――― 別冊あすか vol 1（2002年12月）
Summer School ―――― 描きおろし